

Emigres boost Israeli population

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An influx of Soviet immigrants in 1990 gave Israel its highest population growth for 40 years, officials said Wednesday. The central bureau of statistics said estimates showed the population of Israel grew by 5.8 per cent last year to 4,922,000 from 4,559,600. Average annual population growth over the past 10 years was 1.8 per cent. "(This is) the biggest annual increase in any year since 1951," it said. An influx of 200,000 immigrants, the largest wave since 1949, accounted for two-thirds of the population growth. Only 104,000 babies were born in the country last year. The population figures include Arab residents of occupied Jerusalem and Golani Heights. The preliminary statistics did not include a full breakdown of Jewish and Arab populations. Palestinians and Arab leaders have campaigned against the huge immigration of Soviets, in part because it would give Israel an edge in the "war of demographics."

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S. Arabia says Iraq can end crisis

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia believes that it was still possible for Iraq to end the Gulf crisis peacefully, the Saudi Press Agency said. "We believe that it is still possible for President Saddam Hussein to end this crisis in accordance with Arab, Islamic and international resolutions in response to the calls of international circles and peace-loving countries," SPA quoted a "reliable Saudi source" as saying. The source said in a statement that Riyadh still adhered to its position of demanding that Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwaiti territory and Saudi borders, that the "emir of Kuwait return to power and that conditions return to what they were before the Aug. 2 invasion."

Mauritanian exiles denounce executions

PARIS (R) — Mauritanian exiles charged Wednesday at least 18 people had died in summary executions or under torture and hundreds had been detained in the country over the past four months. They accused the military government of cracking down on opponents to hide an economic crisis and threats of famine. They said blacks were worst hit and repression could unleash civil war between racial groups. The 10 exiles, Arab and black intellectuals, said tens of thousands of Mauritians had been deported to neighbouring countries since 1989, when hundreds of people died in interracial clashes in Senegal and Mauritania. They said about 10 people had been summarily executed under torture since last September.

Morocco sentences rioters to jail

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan court has sentenced 10 people found guilty of rioting on Dec. 14 to prison terms ranging from three to 10 years, an opposition newspaper said Wednesday. Al Ithihad Al Ichtiraki said the court, in Meknes, jailed six people for three years, three for five years and one for 10 years for rioting in the nearby town of Ain Taoujdat. Riots were reported in several places in Morocco on Dec. 14 during a general strike. Moroccan newspapers said dozens of people died and hundreds were wounded during the riots. The government said five people died and 127 were injured.

Bomb threat at Cairo court

CAIRO (R) — Police sealed off roads to a central Cairo court Wednesday after an employee found a letter saying a suicide team would blow it up and take judges hostage, security sources said. The letter was found in a corridor Tuesday. It was signed by a "struggler" who said the court, which handles many political cases, would be blown up Wednesday. All prisoners would be freed and judges held captive, the letter said. The court, in Cairo's Bab Al Khair district, has an adjacent jail housing several prisoners on death row.

Sweden expels Soviet diplomat, 2 officials

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden Wednesday it had expelled a Soviet diplomat and two compatriots for activities incompatible with their official status, the diplomatic language for espionage. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lars-Olof Lundberg said the diplomat had worked at the Soviet embassy in Stockholm, one official belonged to the Soviet trade delegation, and the other to another Soviet organization which he did not identify. All three have left the country, the spokesman said. Lundberg said the three officials had engaged in activities incompatible with their official status. The Swedish news agency TT said they had been expelled for spying.

King arrives in London, says still hope for peace

Masri describes King's European visit as highly significant in Gulf efforts

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Wednesday on the first leg of a European tour aimed at advancing prospects for a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis and said there was still hope that a war could be averted in the Gulf.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival at the airport, the King said: "I hope and pray and will continue to do everything in my power to prevent a war and to work for a peaceful settlement for this problem and all the problems in our region."

In reply to a question about the implications for Jordan in the event of a war in the Gulf, the King said: "It will be obviously the same as it applies to everybody else in the region. It is very difficult to forecast what the results could be in terms of human losses, in terms of economic disasters and ecological disasters. I hope that war will be averted and God willing, common sense will prevail. And this is what I believe."

"Obviously, now I am on this

visit and I will be visiting some European capitals on my way back home, before the 15th of January," the King said in reply to a question on what he intended to do between now and Jan. 15, the deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

"I will hear from (European leaders) and will speak to them on the need to avert war and to work for peace not only with regard to the crisis we are facing right now, but also in the entire region," he said.

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The King, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Court Chief Sharif

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U.S. says Baker visit to Baghdad today or nothing

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Wednesday on its insistence that talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein take place no later than Thursday, indicating that the direct encounter will not take place.

"There's been no change" in the U.S. position on the stalemate effort to arrange a meeting with Saddam, said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

In Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, U.S. military officials said the American deployment in the Gulf has passed the 325,000 mark, including 250,000 ground forces. Iraq has some 510,000 troops in and near Kuwait and has taken no steps that signal a possible withdrawal, the officials said at a weekly briefing in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

Faced with a Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, Bush had offered to send Baker to Baghdad and to meet the Iraqi foreign minister, Tareq Aziz, in Washington.

Asked about reports that both sides have become more flexible in establishing direct talks, Fitzwater said: "The speculation has gotten way ahead of the facts."

"There has been no change in

our position," Fitzwater said. "We gave them 15 days and Saddam never took up the opportunity and we never heard any more about it."

Bush reportedly is considering sending Baker on another round of consultations in the Gulf and in Europe before the U.N. deadline.

The New York Times Wednesday quoted a senior official as saying Baker would seek to coordinate military and diplomatic policies and make sure the international alliance against Iraq was firm.

Bush was to meet Baker Wednesday for the second straight day.

New Year's night he had a session with Baker, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and his deputy Robert Gates, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Vice President Dan Quayle, just back from the Gulf, briefed Bush at the White House on his trip to the region and his talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and the exiled emir of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Bush said he was "absolutely firm" in his no-

compromise stance towards Iraq, but has not decided what he will do if Iraq does not leave Kuwait by Jan. 15.

Bush made the statements in a television interview released Tuesday.

"We cannot stop one inch short of successful resolution," Bush said in the interview, which was conducted Dec. 16. It is part of the series "... Talking with David Frost" presented by Washington television station WETA.

Bush again denounced Iraq's invasion and later annexation of Kuwait, saying, "the world's not going to accept that. And if we don't do something about it today, we're going to pay a much greater price tomorrow."

"And I am absolutely firm in that," he said.

"I will keep working to achieve a peaceful resolution to this question," the president said. "However, it cannot be done with compromise to him."

Bush was noncommittal, however, when asked what he would do if Iraq does not comply with the Jan. 15 deadline.

"I haven't made a determination," he said. "And I suppose if I had I wouldn't advertise it, was carrying no message or initiative to Iraqi leaders."

As Mitterrand's former spokesman, Vauzelle remains close to the president, who named him as one of a dozen emissaries sent to Arab and Third World countries to explain French policy shortly after the onset of the Gulf crisis.

Elysee Palace sources said

(Continued on page 3)

EC leaders underscore importance of talks with Iraq

BONN (Agencies) — German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Wednesday the European Community (EC) must "fulfill its responsibility and talk with Iraq about settling the Gulf crisis without war."

"Preserving peace can often require more courage" than going to war, Genscher said.

Genscher also said he thought U.S. Secretary of State James Baker may meet with the Iraqi leadership in a last-ditch effort to avoid war.

"It can be said with good reason that there is still a chance for a meeting between the American secretary of state and the Iraqi leadership," Genscher said in an interview on Deutschlandfunk radio.

"The United States is interested in that. All signs indicate the Iraqi leadership is also interested in that," he said.

Direct U.S.-Iraqi talks have been stalled in a dispute over scheduling.

Genscher has been the most vocal proponent of the EC embarking on its own search for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

At Genscher's request, the EC foreign ministers are to meet

on Friday to discuss the Gulf situation.

Genscher said it's impossible to say what the results of Friday's meeting will be.

"But naturally the goal will be establishing contact between the European Community and Iraq's leadership," said Genscher. "It is important that the European Community fulfill its responsibility."

With time for a peaceful settlement quickly running out, Genscher said stepped-up diplomatic efforts are crucial.

The United Nations has ordered Iraq to leave Kuwait by Jan. 15, and a U.S.-led international military force in the Gulf is preparing for war should Iraq persist in staying.

Genscher said "everything must be done" to achieve Iraq's withdrawal without going to war.

"We want to give diplomacy a chance in this decisive phase. War in the Gulf is not unavoidable," said Genscher.

Luxembourg, preparing to host Friday's EC talks, predicted Wednesday that Iraq would pull its troops out of Kuwait at the last minute to avoid war.

"We are not heading for war,"

because I have the feeling (Iraq) will pull out of Kuwait at the last moment," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said in a French RTL radio interview.

"The strongest and most sophisticated army in the world is facing a large but Third World army. If Saddam Hussein does his calculations, he will see he has no chance and will give in."

Poos, whose country of 370,000 people took over the EC's rotating presidency Jan. 1, told the Luxembourg newspaper Tageblatt that Friday's meeting was likely to authorise him to contact Baghdad in a final peace.

The ministers will also review developments in the Soviet Union, including the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, since the EC last month announced a multi-million dollar programme of technical and food aid for Moscow.

However, ministers of the 12 EC states had discussed at their last meeting before Christmas the possibility of getting together early in the New Year if the war of words between Washington

and Genscher's request, the EC foreign ministers are to meet

(Continued on page 5)



An Israeli policeman pushes a Palestinian boy into a jeep after arresting him at Shufat refugee camp.

Iraqis ruling out pullout from Kuwait before Jan. 15

By Lamis Andoni

ON THE EVE of Friday's European Community (EC) meeting on the Gulf crisis Iraq plans to sit tight resisting pressure to withdraw from Kuwait prior to the U.N. Security Council deadline of Jan. 15.

Baghdad hopes that the EC will move to avert a military confrontation by pressuring Washington into peace negotiations without an Iraqi withdrawal.

However, Iraq also remains prepared for war if efforts towards a negotiated settlement founders.

Contrary to speculation, Iraqi officials do not consider a partial withdrawal from Kuwait prior to the deadline as tantamount to surrender to the U.S.

Therefore, even if European countries do not move far enough to stop a confrontation, Iraq believes that complying with the Security Council deadline is unthinkable and

will only encourage the U.S. to avoid negotiations and assert its hegemony in the area.

"It is a war of nerves," said an Iraqi official. "The party which wins first will have to make more concessions. We cannot bow."

From the Iraqi viewpoint, challenging the Security Council deadline and U.S. attempts to fix the dates for a visit by Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad are very relevant to achieve the objective of forcing the U.S. to accept a more balanced relationship with the Arab World and with Iraq.

"If we accept what the U.S. is trying to impose, then what is the point in pressing for Arab sovereignty and for a new and more equal basis for Arab-American relations?" asked the official.

(Continued on page 5)

Mitterrand confidant en route to Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — A confidant of French President Francois Mitterrand arrived here late Wednesday on his way to Iraq in what was described as an exploratory mission to see what options remain for peace in the Gulf.

In a press statement issued in Paris after his departure from the French capitals, Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, said his mission was private and that he was carrying no message or initiative to Iraqi leaders.

Vauzelle said in the release that he had hoped to keep his mission a secret. But after becoming aware it had leaked Wednesday morning, he prepared a news release explaining his intentions.

"I had wished my trip to Iraq to be as discreet as possible. But

(Continued on page 3)

Little progress seen in Libyan call after Cairo talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — A proposal by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi for an immediate summit grouping him with the presidents of Egypt and Syria on the Gulf crisis appeared to have founded Wednesday on Egyptian and Syrian misgivings.

An Egyptian official said President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is "jukewarm" about the suggestion, which he feels would accomplish nothing.

The official, who requested anonymity, told the AP: "Egypt doesn't see what can be done at this point." An Egyptian diplomatic source, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Syria shared Cairo's view of prospects of a summit.

Official Egyptian comment appeared to confirm failure of the Libyan proposal by omitting any reference to it after Wednesday's three rounds of high-level tripartite meetings in Cairo.

(Continued on page 3)

Woman shot dead in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Troops shot and killed a Palestinian woman and wounded 13 other people Wednesday in the occupied Gaza Strip during anti-occupation demonstrations, reports said.

The army ordered a preacher at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque jailed for a year without charges and arrested 10 other Muslim leaders suspected of belonging to the fundamentalist movement Hamas.

The army has arrested hundreds of suspected members of Hamas in the past three weeks, and four of them are now appealing an army order to expel them from the occupied Gaza Strip.

In the strip's Khan Yunis refugee camp, Palestinians defied a curfew still in force from Tuesday's "Fateh Day" and held a late march to mark the 26th anniversary of the first attack in Israel by the mainstream faction Fateh.

Soldiers were stoned while trying to disperse the demonstrators and opened fire, killing Suad Saeer, 30, and wounding 10 others, sources said.

In Nuseirat camp in Gaza, three Palestinians were wounded in a clash with soldiers during another demonstration, the sources said.

The army ordered Mohammad Fuad Abu Zaid, 58, held for a year under "administrative detention" which allows jailing without trial or charge, Israel Radio reported.

Zaid, director of the Islamic Council in the West Bank town of Jenin and one of the six preachers in the Al Aqsa Mosque, was arrested during sweep-

(Continued on page 5)

Rebels reject talks with Somali regime

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Somali rebels, saying they had President Mohammad Siad Barre pinned down in an underground bunker, rejected peace talks with the government Wednesday and demanded the president's expulsion from the country.

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Arafat says war unlikely in Gulf

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in a newspaper interview published Wednesday no one would dare unleash a Gulf attack and predicted a normal day when a U.N. ultimatum expires in two weeks.

"Jan 16 will be a day like any other," he said in an interview with the Paris daily *Le Figaro*, referring to the day after a deadline for Iraq to pull out from Kuwait or face possible war under a United Nations resolution.

Arafat, a supporter of Iraq, said he believed "no one would dare" unleash a military conflict.

"I cannot believe that there is a new (Roman emperor) Nero ready to plunge the world into war and destruction," said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, speaking in Baghdad.

Arafat also praised Germany and France for trying to secure a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

But Arafat shrugged off the European Community's insistence that Iraq must pull its troops out of Kuwait before any talks on wider Middle East problems, including the Palestinian question, could begin.

Arafat said the Europeans were seeking peace while the United States spoke only of war and its Middle East ally, Israel, was "calling for escalation."

European Community foreign ministers, in a move initiated by France and Germany, are due to meet in Luxembourg Friday to discuss a last-ditch effort to avoid war. Press reports say they will probably seek direct talks with Baghdad.

An American offer of direct



Yasser Arafat

talks between Iraq and the United States before the U.N. deadline has been stalled by a dispute over dates.

"American leaders speak only of war. This would mean catastrophe not only for the people of the region but for the whole world," Arafat said.

Weapons of mass destruction would be used by both sides and a global economic panic would result.

French President Francois Mitterrand repeated in a New Year message that resolution of the Gulf crisis could not start with the Palestinian problem. Iraq would have to pull out of Kuwait first, as the U.S. and the EC both demand.

But Arafat said: "A withdrawal from Kuwait can only be discussed in the course of negotiations and not through ultimatums."

He added that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "should enter the game and get to work."

The PLO leader said Israel was keeping a low profile for the time being but "will take the leading role, if it came to fighting in the gulf."

U.S. armada heads for Gulf from Philippines

SUBIC BAY, the Philippines (R) — A powerful 13-ship U.S. armada left the Philippines for the Gulf Wednesday.

The amphibious task force of 7,500 marines, backed by Harrier jump jets, helicopters and M-60 tanks, will join up with another seaborne battlegroup in the largest amphibious assault force mustered by the United States since the Korean war.

Admiral Stephen Clary is the task force commander.

The task force is expected to arrive in the Gulf in time for the Jan. 15 deadline given by the United Nations to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Following just behind the task force is a separate battlegroup led by the USS Ranger which will hold joint exercises with Clary's fleet during the voyage across the Indian Ocean.

Celebrating the New Year on their last shore leave before possible action in the Gulf, thousands of marines early on Tuesday set off fireworks and danced in the streets outside the Subic naval base, 80 kilometres northwest of Manila.

A holiday truce declared by communist guerrillas and Philippine government forces enabled the marines to celebrate with little fear of a rebel attack.

The rebels have killed 10 Americans since 1987 in a campaign to drive the U.S. military out of the Philippines.

The task force is the largest group of ships and marines to leave the U.S. west coast since 1965. When it links up with its east coast counterpart, the two groups will have a combined

Call against workers

The chairman of the Senate Labour Committee said Wednesday the Philippines should stop sending workers to the Gulf because of the threat of war.

"We in the Philippines seem bent on pursuing the usual policy of sending workers to Middle Eastern countries," Sen. Ernesto Herrera said. "And yet the dollar remittances of all these newly deployed workers are not even enough to pay for their repatriation to the Philippines in case war breaks out in the Gulf."

More than 500,000 Filipinos work in the Middle East, including 90,000 in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia that borders Kuwait.

Philippine officials say it would be impossible to evacuate all of them back home in case war breaks out between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational force.

About 2,000 trained medical personnel in Germany have been sent to the Gulf.

A spokesman for the U.S. army Seventh Medical Command in Heidelberg acknowledged that medical facilities in Germany were "stretched thinner" after the medical personnel were deployed, but said reservists had arrived Dec. 27 as replacements.

Spokesman Bill Swisher said officials now are "generally satisfied" they have enough staff to deal with the current level of non-combat casualties from the Gulf and with routine peacetime medical services.

Herrera said the government should at least demand that recruitment agencies post a cash bond to defray the cost of evacuating workers in case of war.

Velayati: Iran will be neutral if war breaks out

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Iran Wednesday renewed its pledge to remain neutral should war break out between Iraq and U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia.

"Iran has adopted a neutral posture and is keen that the problem is resolved peacefully," Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on arrival in King Zahir Shah and some guerrillas.

Iran said the landing was only for refuelling but diplomatic sources said talks took place with the Iranian governor of the region.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemozin was due to arrive in Islamabad later Wednesday for Thursday's talks, which will be inaugurated by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Border talks

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry official arrived in Tehran Wednesday for talks on a border demarcation accord and the release of the remaining prisoners captured in the 1980-88 Gulf war, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Riyaz Al Qeisi, director general for international affairs at the Iraqi ministry, also will discuss resumption of visits by Iranian pilgrims to Shi'ite Muslim holy shrines at Karbala and Najaf in Iraq which were banned during the war.

Iraq and Iran agreed in August to formally ending the state of war between the two countries, Pakistani officials said.

Pakistan, hard hit economically by the Gulf crisis, has sent 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and said last week it would also despatch a brigade that would operate Saudi armour.

Both Iran and Pakistan are together home to more than five million Afghan refugees and are used as bases by guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Pakistan remains committed publicly to the ousting of Afghan

strength of 31 ships and almost 18,000 men.

"It'll be the largest force afloat in amphibious warfare since Inchon," Clary said, referring to the landing of U.S. forces in 1950 early in the Korean war.

The PLO leader said Israel was keeping a low profile for the time being but "will take the leading role, if it came to fighting in the gulf."

Thearians challenged Iraq's claim that it has sent all Iranian prisoners home.

Iran maintains thousands of Iranian POWs are still languishing in Iraqi prison camps.

After Iraqi forces pulled out of Iranian territory occupied in the war as part the peace settlement, Iran started demarcating

the border with the hijackers through the control tower.

He did not say how many military personnel will be drawn into the exercise.

U.S. military downplays reports medical services not ready

Asked if the medical facilities could deal with a new influx of combat casualties, he said: "We can't answer more specifically what might happen in the future. When the time comes we feel we'll be ready to do what the army is asking us to do."

The Los Angeles Times report quoted Thomas Verdon, commander of the Landstuhl medical centre in Landstuhl, as saying that Gulf-related injuries, along with the need to serve American dependents in Germany, were taxing medical services.

Swisher said when Verdon made the comments in mid-December, the 2,000 doctors, nurses, medics and other medical personnel that were deployed in the Gulf.

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"We are working on having

President Najibullah, but Western diplomats in Islamabad say Iran has softened its position in recent months.

Najibullah was allowed to land in the eastern Iranian city of Mashed in November while returning from talks in Geneva with representatives of former King Zahir Shah and some guerrillas.

Iran said the landing was only for refuelling but diplomatic sources said talks took place with the Iranian governor of the region.

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Algerian hijackers formally charged

ALGIERS (AP) — The two army deserters who held 88 people hostage in a weekend air hijacking were formally charged Wednesday with conspiracy, kidnapping and piracy of aircraft.

The state prosecutor's office in the eastern city of Annaba, near this country's border with Tunisia, said that the pair would remain in jail while the investigation is carried out.

"The investigation is under way to shed full light on this affair and to determine the motives of these acts," the prosecutor's office said in a press statement.

The statement did not identify the suspects nor their motives for seizing the Air Algerie Boeing 737 during a flight from the Saharan resort of Ghardaia to Algiers.

Local authorities in Ghardaia have said the pair, age 22 and 23, deserted from a nearby military garrison and ran 11 kilometres overland from their base to the airport Friday.

They boarded the plane with valid tickets, but produced guns, a knife and a hatchet shortly after takeoff and ordered the plane to fly to Tripoli, Libya.

After being told that the plane did not have enough fuel, they demanded to fly to Carthage, Tunisia. But authorities there refused to allow the plane to land, and it eventually touched down early Saturday at Annaba.

Police surrounded the plane, preventing it from flying out, while Interior Minister Mohammad Salah Mohammadi supervised 30 hours of negotiations with the hijackers through the control tower.

Ground forces of the regular army and revolutionary guards will take part in the drills, he said. The air force and the army's airborne units would practise support roles.

He did not say how many military personnel will be drawn into the exercise.

Najibullah renews peace offer to Mujahedeen

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah has renewed a peace offer to rebels, inviting them to sit down for talks to end the 12-year-old civil war, the official Kabul Radio reported.

In a speech in the capital Kabul to mark the 26th anniversary of his ruling Watan Party, he said resistance from Western-supported rebels to his Soviet-backed government had fallen off over the past year.

"Come let us sit together and jointly search for a just solution of the Afghan problem acceptable to all," Najibullah told the rebels in his speech which was monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

The United Nations Security Council for the U.S. forces in Europe, said he would not speculate on the state of readiness among medical personnel in Europe but said that there are unused hospitals that would be activated.

"They are fully equipped, they just don't have any people," he said.

The U.S. air force hospital in Wiesbaden also has been receiving casualties from the Gulf. Spokesman Tom Gilroy also said he could not comment on whether the level of readiness is adequate for large numbers of casualties.

"We won't know until it happens," he said. "The medical centre here is ready for casualties to come. You can't take into account all the different factors. You just try to be as ready as you can be."

Najibullah said the Watan (Homeland) party remained ready for talks with any rebel group or its representatives.

"In fact no single party or political force is able to provide peace in Afghanistan," he added.

Former Sudanese minister jailed

KHARTOUM (R) — A former Sudanese housing minister was jailed for five years and fined one million Sudanese pounds (about \$200,000) for a swindle involving distribution of housing plots. The armed forces newspaper Al Quwat Al Musallah said Wednesday the sentence against Mohammad Taher Al Gilani, housing and public works minister from May 1986 to March 1987, was handed down by a court Tuesday.

Anti-Saddam radio goes on the air

NICOSIA (R) — A radio station calling itself "Voice of Free Iraq" has started broadcasts in Arabic denouncing President Saddam Hussein. The station

German firm to study unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A German institution will help the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) conduct a field study on unemployment in Jordan and ways to deal with the problem in the coming years.

According to an agreement signed Wednesday by the two sides, the RSS's Economic Research Centre will carry out the survey, which will last one year, with partial financing from the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Organisation.

The field study aims at defining the social status of the unemployed, causes of unemployment during the past year, as compared to 1986, and analysis of the various measures taken since 1986 to deal with this problem, according to a statement issued following the signing ceremony at the RSS.

"The study will be based on a field survey on the unemployed in various provinces, and will be in harmony with the government's policies to solve the problem and achieve socio-economic development in all regions," said the statement.

It said that the study would also cover all aspects related to the impact of the Gulf crisis on the issue of employment in the Kingdom.

Jordan has at least 50,000 people unemployed, nearly 15 per cent of the total work force, but the rate was said to be steadily rising in view of the returning Jordanians from the Gulf countries.

Britons advised to leave Jordan, Yemen

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Wednesday advised British citizens in Jordan and Yemen to "leave the two countries well before the deadline of January 15 which has been set by the U.N. Security Council for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait."

British officials here say that the statement is a precautionary measure and marks no drastic revision from the advice issued by the British embassy here to British nationals at the end of September.

"We have contacted the Public Security Department (PSD) and they would provide protection to British nationals if need be," Hogger added.

The renewed advice comes less than a week after the State Department in Washington issued similar advice to American citizens in Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania.

The British Foreign Office issued similar advice to its citizens in Bahrain, Qatar and some parts of Saudi Arabia.

About 250 Britons currently reside in Yemen, of whom 30 are dependents.

"We can't tell our citizens

what to do but we are advising them," Hogger added.

He said the advice comes in line with usual Foreign Office procedure in areas of possible conflict, but said the statement in no way meant that "there will be war."

According to another embassy official, the Foreign Office does not fear that war may break out in Jordan but that if hostilities break out in the Gulf British nationals may be exposed to anti-British sentiments because of their government's position in the Gulf crisis.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Masaadeh chairs civil defence talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh chaired Wednesday a meeting of the Higher Civil Defence Council. The meeting, which was attended by the governors in their capacity as chairman of the defence committees in their governorates, tackled the preparedness of the governorates and arrangements made to face the development under the current situation. The council will hold other meetings to follow up issues related to this matter.

Khalifeh meets JDA committee

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan Academy for Arabic Abdul Karim Khalifeh has met president and members of the Jordanian Doctors Association's (JDA) committee entrusted with Arabising medical terminology. Khalifeh commended the committee's efforts exerted in Arabising the terminology and briefed them on the academy's works in this regard.

Public Freedoms Committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman and members of the Lower House of Parliament's Public Freedoms Committee will hold a meeting to be attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran next Sunday. The committee will discuss issues related to those who lost their jobs for political reasons and political prisoners as well as rescinding the martial law.

House's committees to hold meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's educational and legal committees will hold a joint meeting next Monday. The two committees are scheduled to discuss a draft amendments to the higher education law for the year 1990 and a draft amendment to the universities law.

Mitterrand

(Continued from page 1)

"I learned this morning that word of my departure was out," Vauzelle's statement said. "Under such conditions, I believe it is better for me personally to define the limits of my initiative."

"I am not the bearer of any message, I am not charged with any mission, and I have no mandate," he said.

Mitterrand stated at his last news conference Dec. 19 that France would not conduct a dialogue that risked competing with the United States hoped to

have with Iraq.

"France will wait to see, when the day comes, if it should take an initiative, in accord with its diplomatic breakthrough."

Plans for a U.S.-Iraqi dialogue have since been scuttled after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could not agree on a date to meet.

The breakdown has led to an almost complete impasse in dialogue aimed at averting hostilities.

Vauzelle said he was acting as a member of parliament. But observers doubted he has acting without Mitterrand's approval.

Vauzelle said he had refused

House rejects law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday rejected one law proposed by the government while new ministers received congratulations from colleagues and journalists.

The session, which started with deputies hugging and kissing new ministers, was short and calm. Half an hour after the session started the prime minister and all except four ministers left for the airport to bid farewell to His Majesty the King before his departure for Britain.

In replies to questions about the government, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said in Parliament last month that the Labour Ministry had succeeded in creating 6,300 jobs for unemployed Jordanians in 1990 in addition to 2,325 jobs created by the Civil Service Commission in government offices. But he criticised suggestions by Parliament deputies that the government create 4,000 jobs in government departments to help solve the unemployment problem and noted that such a move would cause further inflation in the government-run agencies with no beneficial consequences to the country.

Badran urged the public and private sectors "to join hands to help reduce the unemployment problem" through initiating small and medium-sized income-generating projects and by encouraging investments.

He said that the Labour Ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) was trying to provide vocational training to the unemployed so that they can take over jobs from foreign workers in Jordan.

However, Suleiman Arar, National Deputy Suleiman Arar, then argued that such a measure would adversely affect thousands of people especially since most of the trucks were sitting idle for lack of business.

After Legal Committee Chairman Hussein Mujali said the bill was rejected on the grounds it was unconstitutional, the House voted to reject the law.

In a letter answering a query by Deputy Khalafat, Muslim Brotherhood, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh explained that interest on housing loans for army and police officers at Abu Nseir housing estate were cancelled by a decision from the Cabinet, while interest on loans to civil servants were not. Khalafat then asked why there should be discrimination between civil servants and offic-

ers. The House then moved to discuss the vehicles axial weights law. The law was rejected by the House's Legal Committee on the grounds that it contradicted with the Constitution.

Minister of Public Works and Housing attempted to reverse the committee's decision by explaining that the treasury would lose JD 23 million as a result.

He explained that trucks ferrying goods to Iraq and other neighbouring countries had damaged the roads by carrying excess weights.

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Women protest in front of U.N. offices seizure of peace ship

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

conventions and moral human values," the statement read.

The women also called on the international community to take a more active role in pursuing the events of the ship.

"The ship is in danger, and its fate is unknown. Many women and children on board the ship are in a bad situation, as now there is a shortage of food and water," Dr. Aida Al Jarrar, head of the ship's Information Committee, told the Jordan Times.

"In spite of appeals from women and children in Algeria, Tunisia and other nations, the United States has refused to listen to these appeals and is still holding the ship," Al Jarrar said.

The ship was intercepted in the Arabian Sea off the Strait of Hormuz, by American war ships.

The women and children on board came from 10 Arab countries plus Italy, China, the United States and Japan. "Already

there is a victim on board the ship, a Japanese woman, the president of the Dry Milk Society, who took part because she believes in peace," Al Jarrar said.

The women demonstrators, who wanted to go to the American Embassy in Amman, were prevented by police because they did not have a permit from the Amman governor to go to the American Embassy. The women protested and demanded to go through but the police were adamant in their decision. "Not every time there is a protest or a demonstration, the demonstrators are allowed to go to the American Embassy without a permit. We have a duty to do, and that is to respect the sanctity of any embassy," a police officer, who did not give his name, told the crowd of women protesters.

The ship sailed from Algeria on Dec. 6, heading for Iraq. It carries 240 passengers plus a 40-member Iraqi crew. It is laden with 800 tonnes of sugar and other food supplies. The ship was intercepted in the Arabian Sea off the Strait of Hormuz, by American war ships.

The women and children on board came from 10 Arab countries plus Italy, China, the United States and Japan. "Already

U.N. General Assembly president to arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the U.N. General Assembly is due here Saturday on a three-day visit during which he will have talks with government officials and will tour Palestinian refugee camps in the country, according to an official statement issued here Wednesday.

"They are telling Iraq that it is almost impossible at this stage to establish any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem as demanded by Baghdad," said a diplomatic source.

"They are trying to convince Iraq that the Palestinian problem would definitely be dealt with on its own merits by the international community but that it is vital for Iraq to resolve the crisis and avert a war in the region," said the source.

Alawneh, who has several books on political and Islamic subjects, was elected member of Parliament in Nov. 1989 parliamentary election for the Irbid constituency.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

because we've got a lot of lives at stake. ... but all options are open."

If a military attack is launched, the president said, "I would hope it would be over in a few days, but what happens realistically is hard to tell. ... so, I'm not predicting one way or another."

Thousands of conscripted teenage Iraqis reported to army centres Wednesday.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council headed by President Saddam announced that it approved a big pay raise for Iraq's estimated one million-man army dated from Jan. 1.

In Moscow a government spokesman said the Soviet Union encourages efforts to arrange meetings between the American and Iraqi leadership ahead of Jan. 15.

"We believe that at this point we should all try and concentrate on the efforts to arrange these meetings," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters. "We are all supportive of these contacts."

Churkin said a resolution passed by the Soviet parliament calling on Iraq to act responsibly and withdraw from Kuwait has been sent to the U.N. secretary general, the chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

The command council said the pay raise was

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Higher profile and intense moves

THE grave situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is becoming more dangerous by the day with Palestinian casualties on the rise and Israeli oppression escalating. There is but one solution left: To deal with the Palestinian conflict before it assumes more ominous proportions. The last few days were exceptionally alarming with Israeli soldiers killing five Palestinians and injuring scores of others on Fatah Day, Tuesday. The Palestinian people under occupation seized upon the 26th anniversary of the beginning of the PLO's military struggle against the Israeli occupation with demonstrations in the occupied territories calling for a more intense uprising till victory.

Time is clearly overdue for the U.N. Security Council to implement its resolutions on the Palestinian conflict commencing with its latest, 681, which calls for closer U.N. monitoring of the deteriorating situation and for an increased U.N. presence. Surely the council members do not wish to wait till the situation boils over before they begin to take seriously their own decisions on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By procrastinating over the implementation of its resolution the council would certainly give added evidence to Tel Aviv that when it comes to the Palestinian question the U.N. system is not about to be faithful even to its own verdicts. This in turn would reinforce the long held proposition that the members of the council, especially the permanent ones among them, employ double standards where the Middle East is concerned.

There is an urgent need now for the U.N. secretary general to spearhead the council's monitoring procedure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by making a visit to the areas. As the president of the General Assembly is already making a working visit to the occupied territories the momentum must be maintained by having Perez de Cesar take directly the situation there. Such a visit by the secretary general would carry tremendous weight as it would most certainly send a message to Tel Aviv that the U.N. is serious and determined to resolve the Palestinian problem once and for all.

The ideal scenario is to have the U.N. fact-finding visit to Palestine followed by a visit there by all the permanent members of the Security Council at the highest level possible. Such a high profile by the U.N. in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be the clearest signal ever that the international community is set on applying the same standards to the Arab-Israeli conflict as the one being applied so forcefully on the Gulf crisis.

Meanwhile the secretary general can proceed expeditiously with his other mandate under Security Council Resolution 681, namely the convening of a conference of the parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 with a view to adopting further measures that aim to make Israel respect the provisions of that convention and apply it faithfully and fully to the occupied territories and their citizens. This complementary step to the projected increase in U.N. presence in the occupied territories would go a long way towards starting in earnest the process of addressing the Palestinian problem.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

With the new government reshuffle, the cabinet of Prime Minister Mudar Badran now embodies the majority of the blocs in the Lower House of Parliament, forming a national coalition, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Although it is premature to judge results or to make predictions, one can see that such government presents strong evidence that it will reflect the views of the majority of the people, the paper noted. It said that with the presence in the cabinet of personalities representing the various political trends, one can conclude that it reflects political pluralism not only in Parliament but in the whole cross-section of the Jordanian society. Indeed, the formation of such a coalition offers a unique opportunity for the government to present a better performance and try to achieve what is best for society in cooperation with the legislative assembly, the paper added. The Jordanian public will no doubt follow up the implementation of plans, and will be examining any competition among the various ministries to offer service to the Jordanian society, said the paper.

It said that eyes will be wide open to watch cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in Jordan, and to see whether the representatives of the various parliamentary blocs can work in harmony to serve the higher national interests.

Al Dustour daily said that His Majesty King Hussein's talks this week in Europe come at a time when the beating of war drums is getting louder, and when tension is being escalated by the United States in the Gulf. King Hussein will be the voice of wisdom and reason, advocating dialogue and moderation in a quiet diplomacy aimed to attain a lasting peace in the Gulf, said the paper. The King's tour, the paper noted marks another link in a long chain of strenuous efforts to end the crisis, and it enjoys the support and confidence of all peace-loving nations of the world which strive to stave off danger and catastrophic consequences. Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last August, King Hussein left no stone unturned in the search for a peaceful formula that would put an end to the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq and end the presence of foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian peaceful offensive in the European arena is yet another attempt on the part of King Hussein to encourage the countries of the European Community to take the initiative and pave the ground for peace.

By Annika Savill

MUCH as America insists the clock is ticking towards war in the Gulf, the unpredictable nature of events in the Soviet Union has raised the question: can and will the U.S. cope with two crises at once? It emerges that the Western allies believe that the answer is no, and that if the worst-case scenario becomes fact in the USSR, relevance will fail in the Gulf war.

In the bad old days, after America's adoption of the basic Cold War planning documents NSC 68 in 1950, the accepted wisdom in Washington was that the U.S. ought to be able to handle two-and-a-half major conflicts at the same time. But first, it was question-

able that it could ever really do so successfully — militarily or politically; second, a conflict then would have been an expression of traditional East-West tensions, and hence would have fitted the planning picture.

Now the U.S. have an enemy in Iraq who is not the traditional foe; and we have the spectre of the old enemy returning. And if the effects of the crisis the world would face — following, say, a crackdown in the Baltic states — were to come to a head in mid-January, concurrent with the U.N. deadline against Iraq, which way would America go? Allied officials, who insisted a fortnight ago that the Soviet situation could not interfere with

U.S. intentions in the Gulf, admit now that there is indeed such a risk.

There might be a new Iron Curtain, not between East and West-Europe, but between the USSR and the rest of the world. What does this mean for East Europe's new democracies? That issue was in fact forced on the Americans yesterday when the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, Jiri Dienstbier, in Cairo during Dick Cheney's Gulf-orientated visit, insisted on meeting the U.S. Defence Secretary to discuss what was described as "the Gulf crisis, security in the Soviet Union and Europe." Superpower thinking dies hard; many within the U.S. adminis-

tration will insist — like their Soviet counterparts — that the old enemy is more important. "If the U.S. must choose, some in the leadership will argue that it must assert its traditional superpower role against Russia," said one official. Others would say, "let us accept the Cold War is over and go ahead with a war against Iraq"; the first camp would argue, "the West has 400,000 troops in the Gulf theatre; how can we commit them to a war there, the consequences of which are totally unknown?" And then, Mr. Bush has even more of a problem with a domestic divide. It is partly because of the Gulf crisis that the rest of the world has not truly addressed

the implications of the Soviet situation so far; physical intervention against the Soviet Union is well-nigh unthinkable, especially since the signing of the CSCE treaty last month. Dealing with what was coming with an entirely reviewed security policy towards the East (much like the West had to scramble for a new Middle East policy after the invasion of Kuwait in August). The question-marks surrounding aid to the Soviet Union highlight the fact that apart from propping up Mr. Gorbachev, the West has no clear policy towards the USSR, nor any clear understanding of the Soviet alternatives. General Galvin admitted as much

yesterday when he said the Soviet "political leadership is divided and it is possible that this will become divided. If that happens, who should the military follow?" Even if Mr. Gorbachev manages to cling to power now, a crackdown in the Baltic would force Washington to cool ties with Moscow considerably; and then, how can the international coalition against him is to be taken seriously? Francis Fukuyama, it is clear, confused everyone by declaring prematurely the end of conflicts as we knew them and hence, "the end of history." For better or for worse, plenty of history lies ahead. — The Independent

It is one crisis or the other

By Michael Sheridan

JERUSALEM — Yossi Olmert, head of the Israeli government press office, stood facing a crowd of angry people who would not shut up, refused to sit down and shouted abuse at them. There were 450 of them jammed into a small theatre in Jerusalem, and they were all devoted Zionists.

Dr. Olmert had placed an advertisement in the Jerusalem Post inviting people concerned about Israel's image abroad to present themselves for a discussion with him and his staff. Well, there are a very large number of Jerusalem Post readers who are amply concerned. People were crowding the aisles and peering in through the doors.

It began with a plea from

Dr. Olmert. "Can we refrain from media bashing?" he asked. "Not just because there may be some foreign press around," he added hastily. That did not worry the audience. They were going to demolish the foreign press anyway. But they wanted to demolish Dr. Olmert as well.

Daphne, a middle-aged woman from Britain: "There aren't enough people from Israel to come to the U.K. and put the message across. Every time the news is on we see that blessed Temple Mount film again and again, articulate Arab spokesmen — and no one from the Israeli side is up to it."

Bernice Wolff, who lives on a settlement in the occupied

West Bank, to which she would refer as Eretz Israel, or Greater Israel: "You should investigate the boards of directors of these media companies, their Arab interests, oil and so on." Despairing mutter from the back: "But they're all Jews!"

"Why do you refer in government handouts to the Palestinians?" demanded a Dutch woman. "The fact is they're Arabs, not Palestinians," said somebody else. "We're the Palestinians."

"I personally object to the use of the term 'refugee camps,'" said Arie Wetherspoon. "They're not. They're slum neighbourhoods." Why, someone asked, were PLO

members referred to by the news media as "guerrillas," when every other such group in the world was called "terrorist." And why, came the aggrieved chorus, were Dr. Olmert and the government not putting such matters right?

"This is a very Jewish meeting — we never listen to each other!" said Dr. Olmert above the din. He agreed, the word "Palestinian" was not very popular and he did not much like it himself. And he personally always said "Eretz Israel."

Someone was bound to mention CBS and 60 Minutes, a documentary programme which sharply criticised Israeli police conduct on the Temple Mount (the Noble Sanctuary).

When 'Bad Jews' make good news

By Abdulhay Y. Zalloum

Mr. George Bush said early in August 1990: "Our jobs, way of life, our freedom and the freedom of friendly countries around the world will suffer if the control of the world's great oil reserves fall into the hands of Saddam Hussein." This was the mission of American troops sent to the Gulf before pollsters advised Mr. Bush that Americans are increasingly unwilling to die for oil. "The fight isn't about oil" said Mr. Bush in a recent November campaign swing. "The fight is about naked aggression that will not stand." The contradiction between the two statements is obvious. Mr. A.M. Rosenthal has probably expressed the mission of the United States troops in Saudi Arabia more bluntly in his New York Times article reprinted on the Aug. 27 edition of the International Herald Tribune "any politically literate American knows that the United States is not fighting for democracy because there is none in the Arab World. It is not fighting for the right of the Kuwaiti royal family because no American would be fool enough to risk his life if it goes on running the place like a private oil plantation." Mr. Rosenthal went on to say that the United States moved into war position because of oil. Oil and defending "the American way of life" are therefore the credible objectives of the United States in the Gulf crisis.

The Western democracies have different ways of life and it may be not very democratic to impose one's own way of life on others unless it is right. How many Americans know that if you chose the Japanese energy utilisation efficiencies, that is to say the Japanese way of life in energy consumption, then you will not be in need of any oil imported from abroad and you will save about eight million barrels of oil per day! Or, at today's oil prices \$90 billion annually. Oil imports accounted for 45 per cent of the American trade deficit in 1989 and at an average of \$15 per barrel. Many non-Americans, and indeed many "politically literate" Americans might feel that the United States is in more need of a better energy policy than sending troops to the Gulf's "oil plantations."

American oil policy fluctuated between two extremes. One is downright possession of Arab oil and the other is by securing its price, access and free (the American way) flow of the petrodollars. On June 30 1943, F.D. Roosevelt authorised the formation of the Petroleum Reserve Corporation in order to acquire 100 per cent of Saudi oil from Aramco. The first meeting of this company was held on Aug. 9 1943, attended by the secretaries of interior.

Dear President Bush,
I hope you want to be Education President.
That means you want to learn helpful to be smart. This is not necessary as we are already smarter than the Russians who want to be like us, so why not get sum of those dumb students over here to learn stuff our way.
Then they will have democracy and be true Americans
Yours truly
Robert Noddanger III
(age 15)

war, state and navy as members of the board. Abe Fortas was the secretary. In intensive studies and investigations by and for congressional Senate foreign relations subcommittee on multinationals, in 1974, it was then agreed that the bottom line is access to oil, price, and petrodollars recycling. Are we now seeing a conversion to the first policy? If so, we are going against time and we are giving the new world order a wrong start. The collapse of communism was probably much faster than the United States anticipated and it did not thoroughly analyse its post cold war strategies. It is trying to attain tomorrow's objectives using the ways of yesterday. Many "politically literate" non-Americans feel that not only the U.S. energy is in need of revision, but also its foreign policy. This can be easily traced through the many U.N. resolutions in the past twenty five years on the Middle East. It was the United States and Israel against the world. If the Middle East problems, all of them, can be resolved on the basis of total but not selective justice, it must not matter who advocated total justice first. This, however, requires freeing the U.S. Middle East policy from being a hostage to self-centred powerful lobbies that serve really non-American interests.

(The Author of this article, a Jordanian, participated in the grassroots organisational development of three Arab national oil companies, including Kuwait's. He is a graduate of LSU (engineering) and Harvard Graduate School of Business).

Do not give the new world order a wrong start

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

BERLIN — What is left of East Germany? Too little, say many of the people who lived there.

In 13 whirlwind months, from the peaceful overthrow of the country's communist regime to the first all-German elections for 58 years, not only has the East German state vanished but, it seems, its cultural identity has all but dissipated as well.

For many on the eastern side, "unification" on Oct. 3 was less a merger of two Germanys than a Western takeover.

The former ruling party Elite is a reviled group of ailing elderly men under investigation for corruption and abuse of power. Shops stock almost exclusively Western goods. Television serves a virtually uninterrupted diet of Western programmes.

So what, if anything, remains of the east?

"The achievements of 40 years are melting away," de-

clared the hated state security police, seems to have survived beyond the grave. Allegations

of informing for the Stasi have

felched one senior East German politician after another, despite sometimes flimsy evidence.

East Germany's economy, once described by historian David Childs as "a kind of

"miracle" in the Soviet bloc, has collapsed since the overnight introduction of hard currency and free-market rules on July 1, 1990.

The shock exposure to Western competition has driven to the wall hundreds of companies, including top names like camera-maker Pentacon, and left more than two million people jobless or on short-time work schemes.

Many East German consumers

shun their own products as relics of the old system. Everything, from cars to cornflakes,

in a few months than we built up in 40 years," says Gerhard Groh, a retired foreman from a machine tool factory.

"We worked well here, im-

portant books were written,

pictures were painted. Our

children do not belong to a lost

generation," says Wolfgang Ullmann, a leading dissident in the anti-communist revolution who is now a member of parliament.

Authors such as Christa

Wolf and Stefan Heym found

international audiences but

their work has fallen from favour as Western critics accuse them of complicity in the communist establishment.

The East has turned into a wasteland of dying industries but has yet to attract the billions of dollars of outside investment it needs to revive.

"They have destroyed more

selves," says Baerbel Bohley, a leading former dissident and still a grassroots activist.

The spiritual barriers which the wall threw up will remain with us as a scar, a wound, says film director, politician and former dissident Konrad Weisz.

The border may have gone but there is wide recognition that East Germany's 16 million people are still a special group with special problems. If West Germans can be generally categorised as self-satisfied and rich, East Germans can be seen as lacking in confidence and still far from realising dreams of plenty.

No-one can even decide what to call the place. Formulations like "former East Germany" or "the new federal states" or even "the accession zone" constantly trip up politicians and journalists.

What is left of East Germany?

"A culture of resistance grew here. That implies values which are worth keeping," says Ulrike Poppe, another prominent dissident from the 1989 revolution.

But the civil rights groups which attracted hundreds of thousands of street demonstrators in 1989 have gone, and the participatory politics dreams of groups like New Forum and democracy now seem a lost ideal.

"The bitterest experience of the last year has been the realisation that East Germans' belief in miracles is greater than their belief in them," says satirical writer Lutz Rotherow. "And an equally rich collection of 40 years of neuroses."

Jordan Times

WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

The immigrant: Broken dreams

lead to literary success

By Clare Pedrick

ME — At the age of 24, straight out of college, armed with a few hundred thousand (a few hundred dollars) a smattering of Italian, Methnani set off from home in Tunis to seek adventure in the El Dorado he had dreamed of since he was a boy — the magical land Green like so many before him, and modern-day Candide expected to be able to carve a life for himself in a place, one full of rich experiences, a good job, friends in a comfortable home. He was in Italy, in his mind's eye, a country that abounded with the ancient history and friendly, tolerant people. "Everyone in Tunis thought of the st as a place to find a girl, a job and clothes like Carreras and Levies, and Italy is the obvious place to go," he recalls. "When I got back, I realised I knew y little. I soon found out reality was quite different."

Methnani's long odyssey through the major cities of Italy, his desperate search for work, his introduction to the side of a country he had never seen as a country of

immigration, one book that has failed as a phenomenon Italian literary circles, written with 32-year-old Italian novelist Mario Fortunato, based on the diary that Methnani kept of his wanderings, is a disturbing and high-spirited account of life as an illegal alien.

The book appears just as Italy is beginning to come to terms with its new role as a country to immigrants in the developing world. With their long tradition of immigration, Italians are now in debate about the blemishes of immigration and difficulty of overcoming racism in a people who pride themselves on their warmth and hospitality.

Methnani's story adds fuel to the fire, but with the difference that it looks at the issue from the inside. "It's first time an immigrant himself has been the protagonist," said Methnani. "In past, it's always been others talking about the blemish, but I don't think one could really imagine

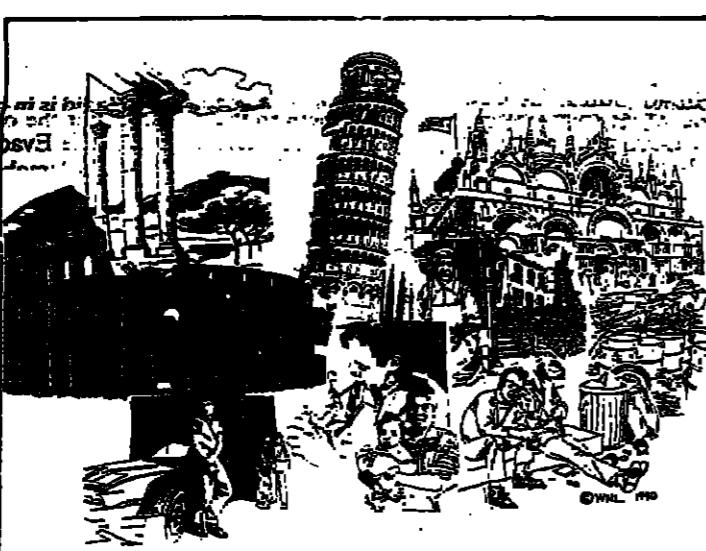
what actually happens in this parallel world, the poverty, the crime and the wretchedness."

Methnani had never dreamed how hard it would be to survive as an illegal alien. For a start, he was used to better things. He came from a middle-class background and a comfortable home. He was educated at a private school and received a university degree. He spoke five languages — Arabic, French, English, Italian and Russian — and had visions of continuing his education in Italy.

"I thought I would be able to sign up at an American university and live the kind of life U.S. kids do, working hard and playing hard," he said. "It did not take long for the young Tunisian to discover that reality was quite different. One by one his illusions crumbled as he encountered racism, poverty and the sickening round of drugs and prostitution that many immigrants are forced into surviving."

Finding a job

Finding a job proved



almost impossible. Methnani looked for work in pizza parlors, restaurants and fishing boats, but was turned down everywhere. In Sicily a fellow Tunisian gave him the depressing news that after one and one-half years he still could find only two days of work a week. The few jobs that were available paid extremely low wages. As one Sicilian fisherman told him: "We're not racist. The fact is that you're here illegally, and therefore you're not supposed to work. For that reason, you'll always be ex-

plotted." Thus, a job cleaning prawns in Palermo paid just 2,000 lire (\$1.75) a case. In the olive groves a day's backbreaking labour was rewarded with 34,000 lire (\$30).

In Naples Methnani was offered a steak dinner if he would sell his blood. But the low point came when he took a job cleaning out a pigsty for a Sicilian farmer. For the task, doubly repulsive to a Muslim, Methnani was paid just 10,000 lire (\$9).

Methnani recalls the pigsty incident as one of the worst moments in his life. There were plenty of other black spots, such as being stopped by police and subjected to a beating and slurs. He also cited the states of local residents when he strolled the streets with Carmen, a young woman who was one of the few people to show him any kindness.

Methnani met racism almost as soon as he stepped off the boat in Sicily. One of his first impressions was of a woman glancing at him and clutching her handbag to her chest. Later, in a bar, the owner told him, "I'm sorry,

I smile and wave at the little girl, but it only makes it worse."

One of the most difficult aspects of Methnani's new life was learning to see himself as others did. From the middle-class boy in search of adventure he was soon forced to look at himself through different eyes. "In such a short time, I have to accept that I can no longer see myself as young graduate, and others sell themselves to survive. "This is not a book which says that all Westerners are bad and racist, and that immigrants are poor devils who should be helped," said Methnani. "I believe that immigrants who break the law should pay like anyone else."

Squallid boarding houses

Home for Methnani became a succession of squallid boarding houses. In Palermo he slept in a room crowded with four beds and lit by a single light bulb. In Naples he had to splice two electric wires to get any light at all. In Rome he planned to live the life he had promised himself when he first set out from Tunisia — visiting museums, seeing the ancient ruins that once filled his head with dreams and wonder. Instead, penniless and depressed, he ended up sleeping in a train on a railway siding. From there it was just a short step to falling into the dreary round of immigrants' haunts — the church-run soup kitchens, the crumbling dormitories, the sleazy bars.

"I always meet the same people," he notes in his book. "We're like a kind of wandering band. Each morning we meet for breakfast in Piazza Bologna, then for lunch at Colle Oppio, a shower in the afternoon at Via Marsala and so on. Many immigrants, especially the Somalis and Eritreans, do nothing else. In the soup kitchens they fill their bags with food and in the churches which offer cast-off clothes they rummage through sweaters and shirts, anything they can get their hands on."

Methnani is often harsh in his portrayal of his fellow aliens. Though he soon came to understand the circumstances that forced them to be as they did, he deplored their lack of dignity and their readiness to put their principles aside to make a bit of

money. In the twilight world of Italy's illegal aliens, some steal, some sell drugs and others sell themselves to survive. "This is not a book which says that all Westerners are bad and racist, and that immigrants are poor devils who should be helped," said Methnani. "I believe that immigrants who break the law should pay like anyone else."

From the beginning

From the beginning Methnani was determined to avoid the temptation of the easy money to be earned from drug dealing. For a time he sold cigarettes and lighters on a street corner in Naples. Later, up in Padua, he peddled razors and band-aids door-to-door. But it was in Florence, the city of the Renaissance, that he eventually faltered. He found himself caught up in a ring of drug pushers and succumbed to the dangerous lure of heroin. He was intelligent enough to stop taking the drug, but the experience marked him deeply. It signalled the end of his innocence.

"You end up thinking only of surviving," he said. "When I took heroin, it was as though I was no longer myself. I had to become a drug-taking 'immigrant' in order to be accepted by the others."

Methnani is also critical of some of the voluntary organisations that offer food and shelter to immigrants in Italy. Often, he said, they treat people as numbers rather than as individuals. Worse, their very presence perpetuates the myth that the West is a land paved with gold, where no one need go hungry.

"Back in Tunisia, I remember people always used to say about Italy, 'If things get really bad and you don't find a job, you can always be sure that the church will take care of you,'" he said. "I think it would be better if people stopped believing that, and stopped coming here. I would

have to do something that will help us to understand each other... The only way Westerners will stop thinking black people are inferior, or dirty, or ignorant, is if they understand something about them. I'm quite convinced that it's possible" — World News Link.

Mizumura

Mizumura said her status as an outsider gave her the courage to approach the task other Japanese writers avoided.

"I had no literary reputation to risk, no set literary style," she said. "I had nothing to lose in giving it a try."

"In Meian Continued, Tsuda is rebuffed after finally daring to ask Kiyoko why she spurned him. "While I don't dislike you," she says, "you're the sort of person I can't stand."

Tsuda's wife, Onobu, realises her efforts to win his love aren't working, and considers suicide.

Having resolved one enigma, Ms. Mizumura leaves her readers with another: Will Onobu choose life or death?



Jan. 3, 1991 [A]

A daughter of the Yellow Emperor

BY ROBERT SHELTON

LONDON — As one of 30 million overseas Chinese, Lynn Pan knows what it feels like to be an immigrant — in Hong Kong, London, Helsinki, Geneva and North Borneo.

In her most recent book, *Sons of the Yellow Emperor: The Story of the Overseas Chinese*, Miss Pan has combined her personal experiences with a background in journalism to write a fascinating story of prejudice, flight, settlement, racism and courage.

Pan is not afraid to show that evil as well as good has been a part of the Chinese diaspora (emigration), which she sketches back to the 1500s. She introduces us to the Hong Kong "chuppies," the Chinese counterparts of yuppies, and to "Dragon Head" and "Straw Sandals," two triad societies that are active in the heroin trade.

In the book we learn about ordinary citizens who fled famine, poverty and oppression down the years and about others who trace their roots back to China, such as President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, who have risen to the top in their new cultures.

Shanghai-born Pan authored four books in the 1980s, two about her birthplace. Why has she decided to write about the emigres?

"I want people to understand the Chinese, at home and overseas, better. And through my book, to help those emigrants to lead lives of respect and security wherever in the world they may be trying to sink new roots," Pan replies.

From now until 1997, when Hong Kong will be returned to mainland China, the world will be paying increased attention to the numbers of Chinese who are emigrating. "You have heard about what they call the 'yacht people' the wealthy Hong Kong residents who have headed mostly for America or around Vancouver in Canada," she explains. "Now and in the foreseeable future, I fear, there will be boat people and thousands of other illegal immigrants to make their presence official."

Methnani spends his days translating into Italian a collection of short stories by the Moroccan writer Mohammed Choukri. He is also translating into Arabic a book by Italian philosopher Gianni Vattimo.

His own book, he hopes, will also be translated into Arabic. Among his other projects is a proposal to RAI, the state-owned TV broadcaster, to present a programme on Arab literature and culture. The young Tunisian said that his own experiences have taught him that bridge-building is the only way to tackle racism. "I want to do something that will help us to understand each other... The only way Westerners will stop thinking black people are inferior, or dirty, or ignorant, is if they understand something about them. I'm quite convinced that it's possible" — World News Link.

Pan tells us of successive massacres of Chinese immigrants in the Philippines, which took scores of thousands of lives.

Pan cautions that "this is not a celebratory book. I tell the story with warts and all."

And there are not always positive tales to tell of sharp Chinese traders, or cunning seekers after power in their new lands, or the violent, drug-running triads that have moved into the major cities.

Asked why Japanese emigrants are treated so much more favourably in Australia, South America, and perhaps around the world, Pan replies, "The Japanese are not long-time settlers like the Chinese. In South Africa they have been treated like honorary whites." Overseas Japanese are not perceived as settlers of a permanent community. She adds that after a few years in a foreign country, Japanese will pull up stakes and head home. And they will often make investments overseas that earn them profits but that also create jobs for local residents.

Pan is arts reporter for the Far East Economic Review. Although Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, himself of Chinese descent and leader of the largest overseas Chinese community in the world, has banned this influential magazine, he has allowed her book to be sold there.



himself of Chinese descent and leader of the largest overseas Chinese community in the world, has banned this influential magazine, he has allowed her book to be sold there.

"I was born in Shanghai, was made an emigre in the 1950s by the terror campaign of the Chinese Communist Party and was educated, in a manner of speaking, in Hong Kong, British North Borneo and England, where I eventually established a base..."

Shortly before he died, my father built himself a log cabin in the wilds of British Columbia. My sister lives in Hong Kong, married to an Englishman. My brother lives in Sabah, as British North Borneo is now called, and is married to a second-generation Chinese immigrant. His children speak neither Shanghainese (our father's language) nor Teochiu (our mother's), but Cantonese, English and Malay."

A sister and a brother died young, victims, Pan says, of their move to Borneo, with its tropical diseases and primitive medical facilities. "I have first cousins in Shanghai, Nanking/Taipei, Brighton, Sydney, New York and Boston, and more distant relatives in Florida and Brazil. I should say we're fairly representative, in our pattern of expatriation and adaptation, of a large proportion of overseas Chinese families."

Pan tells the story of the Chinese diaspora with great compassion. She traces the genesis of emigration back to the 16th century, when the Portuguese arrived in the Far East. They were followed by the Spanish, the Dutch and the British, all of whom were expanding their empires and looking for cheap labour.

The book presents an interesting historical juxtaposition. Just as the African slave trade began to die out in the middle of the last century, international traffic in Chinese coolies increased.

Under conditions in which the death rate soared to 45 per cent, tens of thousands of Chinese labourers were shipped out to the Americas, the West Indies, Africa and South Africa. During World War I thousands more Chinese were imported by Britain and France, again as cheap labour. Chinese sailors who jumped ship in Liverpool and other British ports gained unsavory reputations as the owners of opium dens.

The first Chinese emigrants were male. Later, female prostitutes were kidnapped or tricked into going to California during the gold rush of the mid-1800s. The women were then sold for \$350 to \$1,500.

At the other end of the spectrum of prostitution, concubinage or a life of unpaid domestic service were women like Madame Wellington Koo, second daughter of the fabulously wealthy Oei Tiong Ham, the so-called Sugar King of Java. The daughter, groomed by her mother to be a member of the European high society, became the wife of Wellington Koo, a respected diplomat.

Pan relates an anecdote in which, at a dinner party, an American tried to make conversation with Wellington Koo by asking, "you like soupe?" Koo only nodded and smiled. He then gave a brilliant discourse on international relations between the United States and Japan. "I like soupe?" Such vignettes illuminate the fascinating and often tragic history of sons and daughters of the Yellow Emperor, with their strengths and ability to survive — World News Link.

New author ends 74-year-old cliffhanger

By Elaine Kurtenbach

The Associated Press

KYOTO — Japan's most renowned author died in 1916, leaving his final novel incomplete and his readers wondering whether the main character, Tsubasa, would win Kiyoko's heart.

A writer who spent part of childhood in the United States finally resolved the cliffhanger this year with a continuation of Natsume Soseki's classic novel *Meian*.

Her 373-page first novel, "Meian Continued" has sold 26,500 copies since its release in August, good for serious literature but small-time compared with hits that sell more than a million.

"I figured many people, like me, would like to know how the story ends, and since Soseki is so famous, I figured that at least libraries and Soseki scholars would buy

the book," said Ms. Mizumura, a former lecturer in Japanese literature at Princeton University.

Soseki's novel is about newlyweds who find, after playing the doting husband and wife for about six months, that they aren't happy together.

Tsuda, a white-collar worker from a rich family, has to acknowledge he doesn't really love his wife, whom he met shortly after being jilted by Kiyoko, the woman he does love.

He tries to confront Kiyoko, who is married and appears only in the last few pages of *Meian*, to learn why she rejected him. The book ends just as his courage fails.

Meian was written in Soseki's gloomy later years and is not among his best-loved novels. Many Japanese read the book in school, however, in addition to his more humorous earlier works.

Even the highly educated consider Soseki's Japanese, antiquated and difficult. It relies heavily on unique uses of the Chinese characters and sets of syllables that form Japan's written language.

"Young people in Japan don't read books written in prewar Japanese," Ms. Mizumura said. "It's even rather difficult for college students."

She described her foray into serious literature as a contribution to reviving long-discarded forms of more traditional Japanese literature.

She was a doctoral student at Yale University and spent three years teaching at Princeton. In January, she will begin teaching at the University of Michigan.

Mizumura said her status as an outsider gave her the courage to approach the task other Japanese writers avoided.

"I had no literary reputation to risk, no set literary style," she said. "I had nothing to lose in giving it a try."

"In *Meian* Continued, Tsuda is rebuffed after finally daring to ask Kiyoko why she spurned him. "While I don't dislike you," she says, "you're the sort of person I can't stand."

Onobu, realises her efforts to win his love aren't working, and considers suicide.

Having resolved one enigma, Ms. Mizumura leaves her readers with another: Will Onobu choose life or death?

Sherlock Holmes to help Zimbabwe make it in film business

By Vanora Bennett
Reuter

HARARE — *Sherlock Holmes* has left his home in London's foggy Baker Street to take up the challenge of solving crime in the dark continent of colonial legend.

Complete with violin, pipe and devoted sidekick Doctor Watson, the sleuth is in Africa to unravel the mystery of a jewel theft amid the splendour of the Victoria Falls on the crocodile-infested Zambezi River.

Sweltering Zimbabwe is a far cry from his usual gaslamp lit haunts in chilly Europe.

But the detective, played by British actor Christopher Lee, has lost none of his

tortured brilliance in a new racy television series featuring turn-of-the-century characters as diverse as U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt and Lillie Langtry, mistress of the Prince of Wales.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Incident at Victoria Falls," a big-budget project mounted by Harmony Gold of Los Angeles and film financiers of Zimbabwe, also features scenes shot in Harare, stand-in location for Cape Town in South Africa.

The Zimbabwean film industry hopes the project will help promote the country as a mainstream film venue.

Zimbabwe wants to branch out from a series of successful movies made inside its borders

in the past five years about apartheid in neighbouring South Africa. The films include *Cry Freedom*, *A World Apart* and *A Dry White Season*.

Demand for similar protest films looks set to shrink after the launch of political reforms in South Africa this year to end the internationally condemned racial segregation system.

To corner the African market in big-budget Western films, Zimbabwe needs to fight off competition from established locations such as Kenya, where films like *Out of Africa* and *Gorillas in the Mist* were shot.

Sir Richard Attenborough, who made *Cry Freedom*,

turned down Kenya as a venue for his story of murdered South African black consciousness leader Steve Biko when he saw film of Zimbabwean locations.

Tiley, who now liaises between film makers and government officials, said the decade since Zimbabwean independence in 1980 had seen progress in the country's technical expertise.

The end of the destructive independence war against white minority rule had freed thousands of Zimbabweans to be trained in film-making,

"We're cheap. At dollar and sterling exchange rates Zimbabwe is a bargain and people find their budgets really go a long way," she said.

"We have good infrastructure, roads and hotels. We have very varied and beautiful terrain which looks like everywhere from Dorset (in

England) to the Himalayas. We have everything here except snow."

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"We have good infrastructure, roads and hotels. We have very varied and beautiful terrain which looks like everywhere from Dorset (in

training for more and now there are 1800 skilled film workers, some of world calibre."

Tiley said there were no overall figures showing how much Zimbabwe earned every year from foreign films, but the business was profitable.

And she said Zimbabwe was finally gaining an edge over its African rivals.

"There were complaints from the sets of *Out of Africa* and *Gorillas in the Mist* that local authorities were charging too much."

"It seems other African countries have been killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

The *Sherlock Holmes*

series is part of a group of Harmony Gold films called *The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes*. An earlier four-hour mini-series was shot in Europe in September and October.

Both continue the story of *Holmes and Watson* in late middle age, where author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle left off.

Christopher Lee, who played in three earlier *Sherlock Holmes* films before 1970, says the television project is a new departure for him and for the character he plays.

"You can't hurry here. It's not America or Europe. There's a different pace and you can't rush to meet deadlines in heat above 40 degrees."

Ireland halts the artist exodus and boasts an arts renaissance

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

DUBLIN — Ireland, fiercely proud of its artistic glories, also claims a unique record in state funding of the arts.

The land of the blarney has just celebrated the 10th anniversary of an organisation that has helped propel Irish artists onto the international stage by providing them with annual stipends — and no strings attached.

The Aosdána Academy — the name means "people of wisdom" — gives grants of 6,300 pounds (\$11,000). Recipients have no accountability to the state for output.

Prime Minister Charles Haughey, at the academy's recent anniversary dinner, praised it for concentrating on individuals rather than the gallery or theatre where their work may be seen.

"The creativity of the individual artist is the fountain from which everything flows," said Haughey, who

conceived the idea of the academy with poet Anthony Cronin.

"When they provided money for the arts, governments and government agencies tended to favour organisations over individuals, performances over creativity," said Cronin.

The academy's 141 members, all elected by their peers, include film director Neil Jordan, playwrights Brian Friel and John B. Keane, poets Seamus Heaney and Paul Durcan and artist Robert Ballard.

The country that boasts of Nobel laureates George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and W.B. Yeats does not forget its novelists either — they include prize-winning authors John Banville and Brian Moore.

It is all a far cry from the early years of the republic, which 70 years ago emerged from seven centuries under Britain's thumb.

Writers like James Joyce

departed, feeling oppressed and constricted in a narrow society, disgusted by censorship and struggling to make ends meet at home.

Haughey, who himself broke new ground in 1969 with a law to exempt artists from income tax, reflected on that exodus at a time when the new country should have been building up its self-esteem.

"Self-imposed exile became almost a fashionable norm," he said. But in the last decade the arts had given a essential fillip to Irish national pride.

"Art is among other things a means to self-recognition and self-knowledge, not only for the artist but for society as well" said Haughey.

"It is the burnished mirror in which we recognise ourselves, individually and collectively, as men and women of a particular era and as a nation at a particular stage in its history."

Lighting and set designer makes directing debut

By Tim Klass
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — When Seattle Opera general director Speight Jenkins decided to produce Antonin Dvorak's *Rusalka*, he knew whom he wanted as lighting and set designer: Gunther Schneider-Siemssen.

There was just one hitch.

"He said, 'I won't come unless I am the director,'" Jenkins said.

Saying yes meant giving Schneider-Siemssen what is normally the work of three people in his U.S. debut as an opera stage director.

For 27 years he was the chief lighting and set designer

for the late Berlin Philharmonic conductor Herbert Von Karajan. His seven production designs for "Der Ring Des Niebelungen" were the most by anyone since Richard Wagner completed the four-part operatic extravaganza in 1874.

Yet his only directing had been in the relative obscurity of South Africa.

"It was a gamble ... A total shot in the dark with one of the most famous people in the business," Jenkins said.

The gamble paid off in a shimmering joint production by the Seattle Opera and Houston Grand Opera, which is expected to present *Rusalka* in its next season. Seattle performances were Oct. 27-Nov. 7.

Unlike the movie based on the same Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*, the opera ends with the death of the prince and the confinement of *Rusalka* to the dark marshes because she has been tainted by contact with humans.

Slides hand-painted by Schneider-Siemssen were projected to form the prince's castle, which loomed forebodingly over a stone bridge and moat, and the sky over *Rusalka's* lake, lined by trees that seem to filter an ethereal moonlight and luminescent sunshine. Spotlights shining through vertical plastic sheets gave the effect of rippling water. Schneider-Siemssen

said his goal was always that "when the curtain opens, you don't only hear the music, you see the music."

Giving music a visible dimension became his life's work at age 14, he said.

Unable to decide between scenery painting and conducting, he went to Clemens Krauss, then general director of the State Opera in Vienna.

"He said, 'don't become a conductor. In the future, we need designers who are able to interpret music optically,'" Schneider-Siemssen recalled.

During World War II, he studied scenic painting, theatre and related subjects at Munich. His first set design was for a small comedy called *Angelica*. For budget reasons he borrowed the furniture from the parlour of his parents' apartment, which soon afterward was bombed in an allied raid.

"I saved that furniture from the American bombs," he said. "When my parents went to opening night and the curtain opened, they were shocked to see their living

room on stage."

In his first stage contract, at the Landes Theatre in Salzburg, money shortages in war-ravaged led him to begin his pioneering use of slides to meld lighting into the set.

1956, working in Bremen, Germany, he learned that Von Karajan had admired his work on a production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

A year and a half later, Schneider-Siemssen arranged an introduction to Von Karajan in Salzburg, but it was only in 1962 that their long collaboration began.

That year, after labouring over a design proposal for *Pelleas Et Melisande*, he went to Vienna and found the stage hands were on strike, leaving too little time for set construction.

"So I said to Karajan, 'you know, let's not do all this. Let's do it all with light and projections.'

"That gave him the time to do the show," Schneider-Siemssen said.

Schneider-Siemssen's first

stint as a director was on *Tristan Und Isolde* in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1983. He later directed *The Flying Dutchman* in 1985, *Die Zauberflote* in 1985 and *Fidelio* this year at Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria and Bloemfontein.

"Of course, the 'Fidelio' and the concept of freedom has very much meaning in South Africa," he said. "I have, in the opera house, no apartheid. I have black people and white people in the stage crew, lighting and chorus."

Today, negotiating for contracts in Austria and Germany, he said he probably should have begun directing 15 years ago.

He spends about seven months a year with his wife, an American, and their four children in a Vienna home where he has his design studio — two months at a summer home in Salzburg for the annual musical festival — and much of the rest of the time at an apartment in New York.

Prospects for art after German unification Nothing will stay the way it was

By Amine Haare

THE HAND of Joseph Beuys is unmistakable: "I herewith leave art." Unmistakable — both the angular characters with borrowings from the (old) German school of handwriting and the seemingly paradoxical content. As you cannot join art, you consequently cannot leave it. Art is not a club or a political party, not a denomination, not a male or female order — and also not a publicity agency. Or was in the process of becoming a mixture of all of these when Beuys renounced his membership?

Whatever the case may be, the art scene today, in other words, everything that goes with art, seems to be a mixture of Western ideals. But there is no longer anyone who wants to leave it. After all, there's — still — money and fame to be won, without people asking too many questions about the (esthetic) value. Well, that could all change now that artists (East) and artists (West) are bumping into each other, and questions about traditions and avant-grade, "Post-Modern" and "Modern" have to be answered anew.

It is not too previous to examine the intellectual and material "production conditions" for pictures (sculptures, etc) between Rhine and Oder. In the West, the market — and under its law, the bulk of art — is committed to the concept of Avant-Gardism — a concept which has long seemed in need of revision. In East Germany ideological dependency prevailed — stamped by totalitarian, political regimes.

The marks of the wounds inflicted on art by spent

ideologies, by politics or the market can be detected in the pictures (sculptures etc) in both East and West Germany.

One only has to look at the "vocabulary of forms" of the four best-known artists from the former East Germany, the pictures by Sitte, Tübke, Heisig and Matthaeus, which were assiduously collected — even in the Federal Republic — following their debut at the "documenta" in Kassel in 1977, their first public appearance in the West. Even the "deformations" — as created by Walter Libuda or Hubertus Giebel at a later stage — received official approval. The pictures invented by George Baselitz or A.R. Penck did not show a "perfect world", even after their flight to the West. Nonetheless, they, too, experienced (sales) success.

All forms of human living together leaves traces in art; and, as an inevitable consequence of civilisation, traces of politics. Unless, of course, one subscribes to the theory that art originates on a neutral plane, in a vacuum, as it were. But even the most ardent champion of "art pour l'art" would not claim this.

Although art is invented and created by individuals — but within politically structured forms of communal life — it is nevertheless a constant product of our environment, too. As far as developments in art in East and West are concerned, this environment was fractured right from the start after the end of World War II in 1945. In line with the divided system of thought on the part of the (former East Germany) and the Federal Republic, art

likewise followed two completely different models.

For the developments this side and the other side of a de facto demarcation between a totalitarian, Socialist system and a democratically constituted market economy order, it was not of sole importance whether the state imposed regulations — what — ever form they took — on art, or whether it did not do so. It was not of sole importance how supply and demand was to be regulated: via a state art trade of via private distributors. What was of crucial importance was the attitude to the German past when making a fresh start.

Because of public statements, the Socialist part of Germany felt innocent of National Socialist atrocities. In West Germany, on the other hand, there were discussions on collective guilt and war reparations. The consequence for art in East Germany was that — almost without a break — it was taken over once more by a totalitarian state — just after having survived another. Thus East German art became more and more the illustration of an ideology. The Socialist realism of the workers' and farmers' state simply showed the (optimistic) face of the "new human being" as Walter Ulbricht wished in 1952.

The consequence for West German art was that it wanted to start from scratch at all costs — including those of its own identity, if necessary.

Artists in the Federal Republic oriented themselves to

performance and the new media to support new artistic expression.

If one draws up a rough — and now joint — balance sheet, astonishing though the assumption may be, it could well be that "les extrêmes se touchent," to quote a familiar saying, sometime soon, even though art developments in divided Germany appear to be opposed. After years of kowtowing to ideology and the continual resignation of rebellious forces (from Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke, Gotthard Graubner to George Baselitz and A.R. Penck), art has been subdued almost to death and become completely disaccustomed to offering resistance.

Whereas the history of post-war art in the Federal Republic, following new artistic ideas in ever faster developments, and then by leaps and bounds, can be related breathlessly, art in the former East Germany appears to be only stagnating — ever since the "Formalism Debate" was set in motion in 1951. During its course, all art was damned which asked questions about form. Content was called for. And in 1953, at the "Third German Art Exhibition" in Dresden, the "State Commission for Art Affairs" declared war on Formalism — "until the last bourgeois views and habits, so detrimental to art, have vanished from the heads of the artists." A nationally moulded art was to be found.

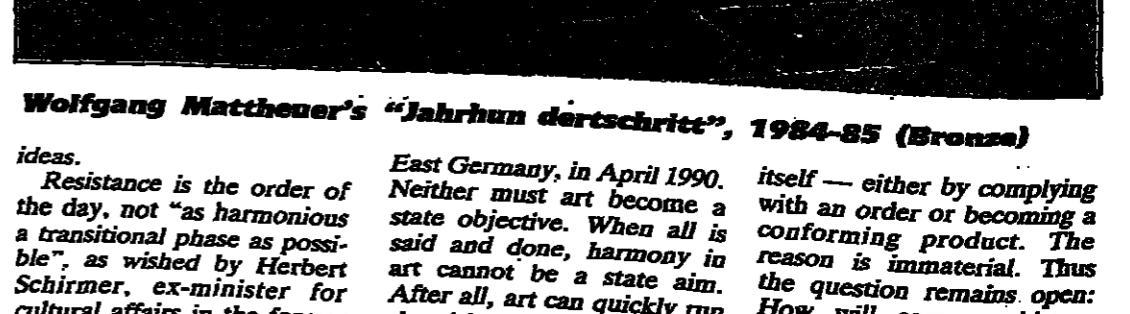
On the other side of the intra-German border, West German artists and agents were endeavouring to latch onto American developments: with "conceptual" ideas, with "minimalist" form reduction, with happenings,

ideas.

Resistance is the order of the day, not "as harmonious a transitional phase as possible", as wished by Herbert Schliemann, ex-minister for cultural affairs in the former

East Germany, in April 1990. Neither must art become a state objective. When all is said and done, harmony in art cannot be a state aim. After all, art can quickly run the risk of doing away with

itself — either by complying with an order or becoming a conforming product. The reason is immaterial. Thus the question remains open: How will common history proceed? — IN Press.



Wolfgang Mattheuer's "Jahrhundertschritt", 1984-85 (Bronze)

The New Year's resolution

By Maha Addasi

LAST New Year's Eve your resolution was to lose weight. And throughout the year you kept saying, "I'll start dieting tomorrow," and of course "tomorrow" never came so you didn't lose that extra wheel around your waist.

This time you are determined that this is the year to attain your goal. But to be successful here are a few hints to follow, and I speak from experience.

First of all never, and I mean never, tell anyone, that you are on a diet, because invariably here is what will happen: "No thank you," you say when they offer you a chunk of chocolate cake. "I'm on a diet."

"A diet," they say. "You don't need a diet, you look just fine."

If those friends think that yes you are a little on the heavy side, they'd say, "oh, but you're so proportional."

So are dolphins and whales, remember. If someone tells you, you are proportional you should immediately embark on a diet.

Then, if those friends feel that you are determined about losing weight they start bombarding you with their advise about dieting.

"Drink eight glasses of water daily," they'd say.

The very next day, because you are very enthusiastic about the diet you drink all eight glasses of water in one go, and spend the rest of the day in the restroom.

Now your family worries, "you're always in the restroom," they comment accusingly.

Usually you would explain that you are on a diet and you drink too many liquids. But this year, that's dieting hint number two, you are not going to tell your family, you're dieting. Just tell them you want to watch what you're eating.

Why you shouldn't tell your family?

Because families have a phobia for the word diet. They think that if you are on a diet you will add bran to anything you cook and that you won't make desserts so that you are not tempted by them. Worst of all family members, once they know about the diet never leave you alone. So you could eat one bite of something and they would whine, "we thought you were on a diet."

"It's an olive for God's sake," you snap back.

That's when they say, "Uh, oh she's in a bad mood she must be very hungry, hungry people are always short tempered."

That's when you feel your patience has been tried enough, and you are ready to give up. Is it worth it to get that hour-glass figure you used to have once upon a time?

Thoughts like "to be plump is to be healthy," cross your mind. Many people made it to the top being heavy. Who's Laurel without Hardy, or Abbot without Castello? Would there ever be Sumo wrestling if there aren't any "plump" men? What makes a snowman look original, or lets us laugh at Roseanne Barr's jokes?

That's hint number three, by the way. Don't let any discouraging thoughts take you off your diet.

Hint four is to eat lots of roughage before the main

course, containing boiled vegetables and meat. That, however, does not mean that you crunch your way through an entire salad bowl drenched with dressing, eight carrots, five celery stems and eat an entire boiled chicken and actually believe that you are going to lose weight just because your main meal was cooked by boiling.

Hint five is exercise early in the morning. Reaching out to turn your alarm clock off and pulling the covers over your head early in the morning does not count as exercise.

If by the fourth day after the beginning of the New Year you are still following your diet, chances are, you will lose the weight. But make sure that "friend" of yours does not tempt you with a slice of cheese cake by telling you, "come on dear, we only live once. Eat, drink and be merry, and tomorrow you may die."

Tell that friend that thin is in, then grin and tell her that of course she does not need to worry about losing because she is sooo proportional!



Fading empire

By E. Yaghi

The great red plane divided the fog. Its engines sputtered and it dropped in altitude. Finally, veiled in a mission of secrecy, it landed at JFK. Its colored lights blinked on and off as it slowly turned a snowy corner and pulled to a stop. A short distance away, the New York skyline glittered with winking yellow lights. The December night air smelled crisp and icy winds nipped benumbed intruders.

A group of Secret Service men wearing heavy top coats, up-turned collars and pulled down hats, surrounded the plane, their hands in their pockets as though secret weapons were secluded there. The thick plane door slid open and out bundled a short chubby man with a mysterious ink spot stamped on his otherwise polished forehead. He stumbled clumsily down the plane's steps, was enveloped by the Secret Service men and then disappeared in a black limousine. Before leaving, the little man saw one of the crewmen at JFK scratch his head in wonder and say, "Could it be? Now, must be the cold weather."

A while later, under a cloak of suspense, said little man burst into the office of a very prominent psychiatrist employed by the CIA who worked under the code name of Ann Landers. "Ah, there you are Gorbie! Take off your coat. Just relax and tell me when all your problems began." She almost gasped at his glaring inkblot but controlled herself, after all, she was there to advise, not criticize.

Frost bitten and scarlet faced, the man called Gorbie removed his homemade overcoat. He sank back on a soft green velvet chair and began: "It all started a few months ago when my country went bankrupt. My perestroika is a failure, Eduard resigned and as that's not enough, some of those powerful Russian housewives came at me and hit me on the head with umbrellas because they claimed they didn't have enough food or even enough money to buy bread. I told them to cool it. Not get excited. Why, there's always biscuits. Buy biscuits! What's the sweat?" He looked up at the dry wry face of his famous counselor who solved every American problem. He continued, "I was then mobbed by these mad women, so I told them, hey, if you're that hungry, go to Israel, Iraq or even Sudan! So, many of them did. A lot went to Israel under the disguise of Jews and they never heard of people called Palestinians or the uprising called intifada! Boy, are they in for a surprise!"

"Well, well," Ann said, her kind eyes scorning him, "I see you're in quite a predicament. However, I think with a series of brainwashing and soul bleaching, we'll make you just as evil as we are. In fact, you show remarkable foul play just sneaking here in the first place. For a take-home prescription I suggest you join Defeated Anonymous. There you will find solace in other members who have suffered similar fates. I'm sure you'll enjoy the company of Maggie, Richard, Ron, your good friend and partner in crime, Eduard, and a host of others. Now, it's way past your bedtime. Besides, Shamir will be arriving soon. We've got a heavy date and I don't want to be late. After all, we have so much in common, why, we're both evil, hate all non-Jews and believe in the expulsion of all Palestinians from Palestine as well as the complete annihilation of Iraq. However, there's one difference in our relationship, I make all the decisions," because I'm Ann Landers, queen of all problem solvers, even though I've been divorced twenty times myself. I'm much better than my addle brained sister who uses the code name of Dear Abby. Shamir, on the other hand, is here today, gone tomorrow."

"Oh, please, don't say those words! I may be gone before tomorrow. Perhaps even today. Look at what happened to Eduard!" he said. Then, in total desperation, he pleaded

with big sorrowful eyes: "Please, you've got to help me. I promise I'll be good and let as many Jews go to Israel as you, Henry Kissinger, Shamir and Georgie want. Stuff them all there for all I care!"

"Humph! I don't believe you. Are you sure of what you're saying," she said looking doubtfully at him. "How about your relationship with Iraq?"

"It's all over. We'll have nothing to do with them. Whatever America wants and good old Gabbie too, we want. But please, give us food! Those Russian women are vicious when they're hungry. It's not safe for me to go out anymore!"

"Very well. I see you don't need as much brain washing and soul bleaching as I thought. Why, you're nearly as malevolent as I," Ann said with a nefarious gleam in her eye.

Pleased and flattered to be considered equally evil, Gorbie sat forward in his chair with apparent confidence. "Oh, thank you! The 'cold war' is over at last! We'll get all the food we need and while we're satisfying our starving masses, we'll turn a blind eye towards the Middle East. America is free to do whatever it wants. We'll just nod our heads in adoring approval." He looked at Ann's face that seemed to have been lifted at least ten times and noticed a touch of skin peeked out from under a slightly slouching wig.

She cracked a narrow smile showing a perfect set of pearly fangs and said, "I'm so happy, Gorbie! I'm going to call my best friend, Dr. Ruth and tell her the good news! And after my heavy date with the shrimp, I just might drop by Henry's for a nightcap. I do admire his froggy voice that croaks with inanity. Would you like a hot toddy?"

Gorbie bobbed his head in anxious acceptance and said: "You know, we used to take whatever side was opposite American policy just to be contrary. But now that Russia's falling apart and perestroika a rotten egg, we'll agree with everything you want us to."

Under a cloud of her witch's potion, Ann spiked and drugged his hot toddy and poured it into a sparkling foaming crystal goblet and handed it to Gorbie. Forgetting his manners, he thirstily gulped it down and then emitted a loud burp. His scarlet face turned purple, his eyes grew wider, his inkblot bigger, his tie tighter and then he passed out.

Ann called her assistant, young Dan Quayle, (the one with the rich father who got him out of serving in the Viet Nam War when Dan was in the National Guard) to come and haul the drugged patient. "Mission accomplished and they said it was Mission Impossible! I think we've got the old boy wrapped around our fingers. He's just where we want him. Get him out of here, Dan and call your boss, 'the Wimp,' and tell him I took care of everything as usual. Who's on my list of patients for tomorrow?"

Dan flipped the calendar with surprising dexterity to the next page. "Well here, Ann, you've got Margaret Tutwiler, something concerning a hang up over being called the ruthless Voice of America. Next comes the Iron Lady. She needs some more lessons on how to go down in flaming shame. Then there's Georgie. Barbara and Millie are getting the upper hand and Neil's an embezzler. And of course, our newest patient, Eduard Shevardnadze. When your sessions are over you're scheduled to watch that moving story, 'The Diary Of Anne Frank' which has been re-run 1,000 times."

A tear came to her sinister little eye and she said, "oh, sad movies always make me cry! When will my people finally own and rule all the world? Did you know, Dan my boy, avarice is the only passion that never ages? Stick with me kid and we'll make you our nasty little puppet just like Georgie!"

Weekend Crossword

FISH STORIES

By Henry Saltzhandler

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Pros try psychiatry for sports stress

By Ira Dreyfuss
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's tough being a Major League Baseball player, what with the huge paychecks, fans who idolise you, and a job that lets you do what you've loved since you were a kid.

You don't think that's tough?

Then talk with Dr. Hardin P. Harding Jr., psychiatrist to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"The degree of the pressure they experience is much more heightened than for most people," said Harding of the Dodger Organization's first psychiatrist.

Not that being a Dodger is harmful to your mental health. Harding figures that if you can make it to the pros, you've probably learned to handle stress fairly well. But it's the way he sees it, counseling can make you even better.

For instance, he said, a pitcher may concentrate on "I gotta throw this fastball" instead of "I'm gonna burn this thing down the middle."

The "gotta" is a negative thought that shows fear of failure — and, if you concentrate on failure, you'll find it, Harding said. On the other hand, he said, the "gonna" ensures you'll like doing it and encourages success.

He and other experts say, however, that their focus is on more than improving concentration. They say relieving long-term problems from on and off the field can free an athlete to play his best.

"My role has been a preventative one, to see no ta-

Psycho athletes and the human heart

By Peter Born

A cross-section of West Germans aged between 18 and 65 were first asked how they assessed themselves psychologically in 1975.

The survey was known as the Giessen Test, having been undertaken by Giessen University psychosomatic medicine centre.

The centre's director, Horst-Eberhard Richter, has outlined the findings of the latest Giessen survey in the university magazine *Spiegel der Forschung*.

Since 1975, Professor Richter says, four striking changes have taken place in how West Germans think and behave.

"They are more egocentric and keener to hold their own in competition with others. They have less social feeling with others and tend to repress their own inner problems."

The average trend is thus, in a nutshell toward an egocentric, all-elbows mentality combined with less social sensitivity and introverted thoughtfulness," he says.

As a psychoanalyst he goes in to describe the trend as follows:

"The impression one gains that a kind of mindbuilding has widespread these days as bodybuilding, its aim being to model oneself on a psycho-athlete whose fitness and power are impervious to pain and stress of any kind."

Medicine is expected to provide assistance in suppressing anything that might preclude this objective, help described in terms of hope by Sigmund Freud in 1919. "Our biology," Freud wrote, "has not yet been able to decide whether death is an essential stay of every living being just a regular, but maybe avoidable coincidence in the course of life."

The worst aspect of the present trend, Professor Richter writes, is the loss of the ability to suffer. Yet this is of suffering is precisely what many groups strive for

and "train."

Another modern trend is to shield oneself off more and more effectively from depressing external and internal perceptions. This defence from suffering is nourished by deep-seated anxiety.

"Weakness and impotence threaten as a sense of being helplessly lost in a world where none but those who hold their own and keep pace with the rest count for anything."

"A great deal of misery and unhappiness is concealed in order to appear fit, strong, fresh and youthful in the face of competition. This decline in the ability to suffer is accompanied by a decline in ability to suffer — and sympathise — with others."

Yet sympathy, Professor Richter feels, is the basic precept of ethics and, to quote Schopenhauer, "the true moral wellspring of mankind."

The handicapped, the chronically ill and the aged and infirm are particularly prone to be at the receiving end of the trend toward repressing inner scruples, social sentiment and sympathy.

They and members of the helping professions find themselves on the darker side of life. As Professor Richter puts it:

"In a system where one feels forced by competition to go from strength to strength, to constantly expand and succeed, the weak, the permanently feeble and social failure are seen as nothing but social drawbacks."

"They threaten the basic outlook of a society inexorably opposed to any idea of accepting suffering as a creature necessity."

It is hardly surprising, he adds, that the trend is making its presence felt in psychosomatics, a sector where ready use is made of chemistry and technology.

Quoting Einstein, he says: "The human heart, not the atomic bomb, is the problem" — Frankfurter Neue Presse.

Hormone opens way to abuses — sports physicians

By Kelly P. Kissel
The Associated Press

lent's lost for psychological reasons," said Bruce C. Ogilvie, a professor emeritus at San Jose State University in California and a longtime sports psychologist.

There are plenty of chances for talent to be lost. Those huge paychecks, for instance, can come with a mental-health deduction, said Dr. Richard G. Rappaport, a sports psychiatrist in suburban San Diego.

"Who's got the biggest income becomes the way they compete," Rappaport said.

And the experts say, competing is what athletes may do too much of, against their own goals or each other. Non-pros also may carry their own excess pressures, driving themselves constantly and never forgiving failure, but the pros do it in the public eye, Rappaport said.

"The requirements are so total and absolute," said Ogilvie.

"You really are denied a private existence, not permitted to have failures as a human being."

A player who's losing playing time finds himself facing "one of the most traumatic realities he has to confront," Ogilvie added. Without help, the athlete might turn to substance abuse, he said.

And if a player succeeds, he can get the big head. "Who's ever prepared for that sudden rush of exaltation?" Ogilvie asked.

It's no wonder that a lot of elite athletes seem to love themselves a lot, Harding said. They've been told how good they are since they were kids.

"My role has been a preventative one, to see no ta-

and strength to those who use it."

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania — Physicians and scientists who consult sports groups on steroid use say a new male contraceptive opens the door to abuse by young athletes.

A study done for the World Health Organisation (WHO) said weekly injections of 200 milligrams of Testosterone Enanthate were a "safe, stable, effective and reversible" contraceptive administration to males.

But Testosterone Enanthate is an anabolic steroid banned by the governing bodies of most sports. The hormone adds muscle mass

Washington Medical Centre.

Yesalis and Steve Courson, who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League, fear athletes will arrange to receive shots from several doctors a week.

"For many athletes, their sports are just as important as contraception," said Yesalis, a health and human development professor at Penn State University who in the 1980s studied steroid use among high school athletes.

Courson, who started out using 35 milligrams of steroids a week and once was up to 1,300 milligrams weekly, said: "You can get mighty big on 200 milligrams. It can be used as a performance enhancer at that

level."

And if an athlete begins using steroids at too young an age, his muscles can outgrow his still-growing bones, Courson said.

"Kids aspire to be what the superstars are, so they try to use the drugs they perceive the athletes are using," he said.

Courson was interviewed from a Pittsburgh hospital, awaiting a heart transplant for a degenerative heart disease. He said his doctors aren't sure whether his heavy steroid use contributed to his health problems.

Testosterone occurs naturally, but is on the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) list of banned substances with other anabolic

steroids. Players can lose eligibility if levels of the hormone are six times the level of epitestosterone.

The NCAA is the top regulatory body for U.S. college sports.

"It opens the door to abuse because Testosterone is the granddaddy of all the anabolic steroids," said Dr. Richard Strauss, a professor of medicine at Ohio State University and editor of the monthly journal *Physician and Sportsmedicine*.

The WHO study was reported in a recent issue of the

medical journal *Lancet* in London. The study said men had to be injected for an average of four months before enough hormone built up in their bodies to stop sperm production. Of the 157 men tested, only one fathered a child.

After the injections were stopped, normal sperm production resumed in an average of 6.7 months, the report said.

If the male contraceptive comes into wide use, and Strauss and Paulsen think it will, sports agencies either will have to change their rules or tell athletes to use other methods while in competition.

Norway hopes to be smoke-free in 10 years

By Johan Rapp
The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Norway, which already has the world's most expensive cigarettes, is trying to stop smoking everywhere indoors and wipe out the habit in a decade.

Even a smoker's home may not be his castle for long. Schools and day-care centres tell children about the dangers of passive smoking and encourage them to tell their parents to quit or smoke outside.

Norwegians with tobacco habits are responding by rolling their own cigarettes, using butts over again, taking snuff and smoking on balconies.

Tore Sanner, a professor at the Oslo Cancer Institute and head of the smoke-free campaign, granted that the num-

ber of smokers has remained constant for 10 years despite increasingly aggressive measures.

About 1.2 million Norwegians smoke, or 37 per cent of the population, but fewer young people are starting. Tobacco consumption has dropped only marginally, to 6,700 tonnes a year from 6,800 in 1980.

Sanner, in no mood to give up, declared: "You saw what happened to the Berlin Wall. Nobody thought it would fall."

Tobacco advertising has been prohibited since 1975. Smoking is forbidden in all public transportation, in terminals, museums and other indoor public places.

A 2-year-old law bans smoking in any office where there is more than one person.

Because 85 per cent of the price is taxes and fees, a pack of 20 cigarettes costs 31 kroner, or \$5.10. The government proposes to raise the price by another 10 per cent next year.

Some Norwegians are as stubborn about smoking as Sanner is about getting them to quit.

On a snowy day in downtown Oslo, Bjoerne Ulvaeus, 28, took a last deep drag before his streetcar arrived. He put the cigarette out and slid it back into the pack, his fingers shaking with cold, before getting aboard.

"You do cut down," Ulvaeus said, but added he did not intend to quit.

Many people doubt they will have a smoke-free society in Norway. Taxes of 250 per cent and numerous restrictions did not stop people

from drinking alcohol, but did lead to widespread bootlegging and home distilling.

Customers at the Manhattan Pub laughed, shook their heads at the idea and continued smoking. A saleswoman in a tobacco store said trying to end smoking in 10 years was "ridiculous and fallacious."

Scandinavians squeeze snuff into a small ball and put it between the gum and inner side of the lip. More people use it as smoking becomes more expensive and restricted.

Ms. Mueller said her council wants prices of all tobacco products raised because "price is our most important weapon."

Smokers have begun organizing against what they call the "ban mentality."

"It is a matter of freedom of choice," said Thor Petter Krosby, a non-smoker who heads the 2-year-old smok-

ers' organisation Smokepeace.

"There is an air of fanaticism" about anti-smoking activists, he said in remarks about proposals to ban smoking entirely at Oslo University, indoors or out.

Krosby said Smokepeace does not encourage people to smoke, but that most of its 300 members are smokers.

Anti-smokers are trying to soften their image with the help of NRK, the state-controlled television network. It carries no product commercials, but does broadcast anti-smoking advertisements.

Some recent ads have a touch of humour. In one, Dracula sinks his teeth into the throat of a young chain smoker, then staggers away coughing, smoke pouring from his mouth.

Ban urged on tooth-filling amalgams containing mercury

MUNICH specialist Max Daunerer says amalgam fillings are toxic waste in your mouth. He calls for an immediate ban on the use of fillings made of alloys that contain mercury.

Speaking in Bonn, Daunerer commented on the federal government's reply to a parliamentary question on the subject tabled by Petra Kelly of the Greens.

Amalgam fillings, he said, came a close second to dioxin poisoning caused by garbage incineration and toxic timber treatment as "the most serious crime against humanity."

A great deal of misery and unhappiness is concealed in order to appear fit, strong, fresh and youthful in the face of competition. This decline in the ability to suffer is accompanied by a decline in ability to suffer — and sympathise — with others."

Yet sympathy, Professor Richter feels, is the basic precept of ethics and, to quote Schopenhauer, "the true moral wellspring of mankind."

The handicapped, the chronically ill and the aged and infirm are particularly prone to be at the receiving end of the trend toward repressing inner scruples, social sentiment and sympathy.

They and members of the helping professions find themselves on the darker side of life. As Professor Richter puts it:

"In a system where one feels forced by competition to go from strength to strength, to constantly expand and succeed, the weak, the permanently feeble and social failure are seen as nothing but social drawbacks."

"They threaten the basic outlook of a society inexorably opposed to any idea of accepting suffering as a creature necessity."

It is hardly surprising, he adds, that the trend is making its presence felt in psychosomatics, a sector where ready use is made of chemistry and technology.

The impression one gains that a kind of mindbuilding has widespread these days as bodybuilding, its aim being to model oneself on a psycho-athlete whose fitness and power are impervious to pain and stress of any kind."

Medicine is expected to provide assistance in suppressing anything that might preclude this objective, help described in terms of hope by Sigmund Freud in 1919. "Our biology," Freud wrote, "has not yet been able to decide whether death is an essential stay of every living being just a regular, but maybe avoidable coincidence in the course of life."

The worst aspect of the present trend, Professor Richter writes, is the loss of the ability to suffer. Yet this is of suffering is precisely what many groups strive for

metals.

"It is now an undisputed fact," the Munich specialist in internal medicine said, "that amalgam fillings increase the cancer risk."

Test persons which amalgam fillings were given gum to chew. Twenty minutes later the number of cells that prevent damage to the body's immune system had declined markedly.

Daunerer said the fillings imposed a high-grade burden on the body's organs. Yet 37.8 million amalgam fillings were plugged into Germans' teeth last year.

Amalgam, he added, had

ideal properties. A superb material from the dentist's point of view, it was so easy to handle.

But 850 alternatives were now available, including seven varieties of plastic, some of which had been licensed for use in the Federal Republic.

Dentists themselves ought to be interested in these new materials. When inserting new fillings or drilling out old ones they were exposed to mercury vapour.

"Every patient who has toxic waste of this kind in his mouth," Daunerer said, "is insured by the manufacturer

for DM 2m against organ damage."

But claims would have to be backed up by proof that amalgam had been to blame for the effects of poisoning.

In its answer to Frau Kelly's parliamentary question the federal government said that amalgam's advantages were that it wore well, that it adjusted easily to the hole in the tooth and that it was easy to spot on X-ray exposures.

Its disadvantage was that it couldn't be dyed to the precise colour of natural teeth. There was no conclusive evidence to suggest a connection with symptoms such as migraine, nervousness and rheumatism.

Frau Kelly criticised the answer, saying it failed to take latest research findings into account. So she planned to table another question Associated Press.

Biomagnetism as an aid to diagnosis

ERLANGEN — The University of Erlangen has begun using a new technical development which makes use of biomagnetism. It enables diagnostic data, which previously had been unattainable, relating to functional disturbances of vital organs to be obtained. This represents the first hospital try-out of the unit known as "Kreinon", developed in Germany.

The unit registers

King

(Continued from page 1)

Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, plans to hold talks with British Prime Minister John Major Thursday before moving on to other European capitals to discuss Middle East issues.

In Amman, Foreign Minister Tamer Al Masri described King Hussein's visit to European capitals as highly significant at this point in the Gulf crisis.

The King's talks during his tour will focus attention on a political settlement for the Gulf issue, said Masri in his first statement as foreign minister following a Cabinet reshuffle Tuesday.

Masri, who took over from Marwan Al Qasem, said that the King's European tour was within the framework of his constant moves at the Arab and international levels to stave off the mounting danger and save the Arab World from a catastrophic war.

The King's tour, which will take him to Britain, Germany, Luxembourg, and Italy, coincides with the convening of European Community countries' foreign ministers meeting Friday to discuss the Gulf crisis and the prospect of launching European diplomatic offensive," Masri noted.

The King's endeavours in Europe, the minister said, complement those carried out recently by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

He said that Amman will remain a pivotal Arab capital for all moves designed to attain a political and peaceful solution to the Gulf issue and the complicated Palestine issue.

The King's tour also coincides with a visit to the region by the president of the U.N. General Assembly Guido de Marco who will be discussing the two issues with Jordanian government officials, Masri said.

He said that the King's diplomatic effort comes amid indications that there is a serious international effort to avert war in the region.

The minister expressed hope that the King's efforts will be crowned with complete success and that the European countries will play a positive role to promote the cause of peace.

Iraqis

(Continued from page 1)

... does not mean, however, that Baghdad is not ready for a compromise over the dates. "The Americans can either accept Jan. 12 (the date proposed by Iraq) or allow the presidents of the two countries to fix the date of the visit of the other country's foreign minister," another senior Iraqi official said. "If President (George) Bush has the right to fix the date and decide the programme for the Iraqi foreign minister in Washington, why can President Saddam (Hussein) not have the same right concerning Baker's visit to Baghdad?" asked the official.

Sources close to the Iraqi government said that Baghdad was ready to accept any date between Jan. 3 and Jan. 12 for Baker's visit to Baghdad. "The issue is not the date per se. We reject the way that the U.S. is insisting on dealing with other countries. The era of colonialism is gone and Washington

has to understand that," a well-placed official said.

According to Arab and Western diplomats, Baghdad and Washington might accept a compromise date proposed by a third party in the near future.

They disclosed that Germany was involved in a short-lived bid to mediate a compromise date but then both decided that it should wait for the outcome of the Jan. 4 EC ministers' meeting before moving any further.

Notwithstanding the belief that European countries will play a crucial role in averting war and pressuring Washington to negotiate, Iraqi officials conceded that none of the countries which tried to mediate departed from the U.S. policy.

"There has not been a serious mediation effort yet," said the senior Iraq official. "The bottom line of all of the mediation efforts had always been a demand for Iraq's implementation of Security Council Resolutions," he said.

The Iraqis consider efforts exerted by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid as the most credible and serious yet. "But the Americans killed it," the official said.

Iraq is critical of Security Council resolutions since it views them as a result of American domination over the Security Council rather than a true expression of international consensus.

Initially the Iraqi government was counting on France to lead the camp of dissent in Europe, especially after President Francois Mitterrand called for an international peace conference to solve all of the problems of the Middle East.

Therefore, Baghdad was careful to release all French nationals at an earlier stage hoping that the step would propel a Paris-led diplomatic campaign for a linkage between the Gulf crisis and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But the move backfired, according to Western diplomats, as an embarrassed Paris had to practically slow down its diplomacy for fear of discrediting itself within the alliance.

Even some of Iraq's friends in the Arab World believe that Baghdad made a tactical mistake by anticipating that the release of the French nationals was enough to build European pressure on Washington.

"Baghdad should have taken a sensible step such as a declaration of intent to leave Kuwait to allow France the chance to pursue its proposals," said a senior Arab diplomat.

But Iraqi officials disagree. "How can we give any concession like that to any European country while none have proved so far their independence from the U.S.?" the senior Iraqi official countered.

The Iraqi official argued that any concessions to a third party could only prompt Washington to pressure for more concessions from Baghdad unless European countries pursued an "independent line" or the U.S. was ready to compromise.

"We are ready to compromise if the U.S. is ready to compromise," the official said.

Iraqis are not clear on what would they consider an American "compromise." But Arab diplomats who have been in touch with the Iraqi leadership

recently say that Baghdad is ready to accept the Security Council resolutions as a basis for negotiations.

"Once again the U.S. is applying two different yardsticks to two problems in the region," a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said after meeting with Iraqi officials earlier this week.

He pointed out while the U.S. had been suggesting that United Nations resolutions serve as a basis for negotiations to solve the Palestinian problem, it is now demanding an unconditional implementation of resolutions regarding Kuwait.

"I believe Iraq is simply asking that the resolutions be used as a reference and as we know when negotiations start the parties involved decide which and how far these resolutions are implemented," he said.

The writer has just returned from a short trip to Iraq.

Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

ing arrests of Hamas activists Dec. 15.

"Administrative detention" is used under emergency rules adopted by the British in 1945 when they ruled Palestine. Zionist leaders objected to the practice at the time, but Israel has continued use of the emergency regulations in the West Bank and Gaza.

Also detained Wednesday were 10 Muslim activists from Qalqilya, including two religious leaders. The army command said the 10 suspected of "political-religious incitement," and Israel Radio said they were members of Hamas.

In Jerusalem, 23 Palestinian and Israeli women marched to demand an end to the occupation. They distributed letters of protest to the British consulate, United Nations headquarters and the Italian embassy.

Israeli troops killed four Palestinians Tuesday. Most of the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories were confined to their homes.

The army said it lifted curfews on all areas of the Gaza Strip except for the town of Rafah and adjacent refugee camps and Bani Suheila village.

The army kept a curfew on 120,000 residents of the West Bank city of Nablus and surrounding refugee camps. Israeli prison guards in Nablus used tear-gas Tuesday night to quell a protest by Palestinian inmates singing nationalist songs.

The new bloodshed occurred as U.N. General Assembly President Guido de Marco headed for Israel and the occupied territories for talks with Israeli leaders and Palestinians. He was due to visit the Gaza Strip Thursday.

Giorgio Giacomelli, head of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) responsible for Palestinian refugees, arrived earlier and met the defence ministry's coordinator for the occupied territories.

It is the first visit by senior U.N. officials since Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed using U.N. relief workers to monitor Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Israel rejects any foreign monitoring. The U.N. Security Council condemned it for refusing to let a U.N. team investigate the killing of at least 20 Palestinians in Jerusalem in October.

EC leaders

(Continued from page 1)

and Baghdad showed no signs of abating.

In interviews Wednesday, Luxembourg held out the prospect of wider consideration of Middle East security problems.

"We must be only a last resort," Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer said in an interview with German radio, adding that the Palestinian question could be included in international talks once Kuwait was freed.

Asked if he saw a link between the Gulf and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Santer replied:

"If the U.N. resolutions are carried out, then all possibilities for discussion seem to me to be open. But at the moment, one can of course make no linking with this Palestinian question."

Referring to Friday's meeting of EC foreign ministers, Santer said Europe had to involve itself in efforts to resolve the crisis.

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said Wednesday Belgian forces will not take part in battle if war breaks out in the Gulf.

Belgium will not even provide ammunition to Britain, as was requested by London, since it is Belgium's "option not to become embroiled in a military conflict," Martens said in an interview with the daily De Standard.

Belgium has sent three warships to the Gulf to help enforce the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq.

"They should not become part of an armed conflict," Martens said in the interview with De Standard.

But he did not rule out sending 18 Mirage fighters to Turkey as part of a NATO rapid deployment force to defend Turkey.

He stressed that if Belgium sends the aircraft to Turkey they would only be used to "help defensively in case of an Iraqi attack."

Belgian Foreign Minister Martens said Tuesday that peace was possible for the whole Middle East if Iraq were to withdraw from Kuwait.

Speaking on Belgian Television, he welcomed the prospect of an EC-Iraq meeting to avert war as an important sign of a Europe with its own foreign policy.

"That is of prime importance for Europe's future," he said.

"It is important to tell Saddam Hussein that if he undoes the aggression... afterwards a global peace solution is possible for the entire Middle East, the solution of the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese problem, disarmament of the whole region."

Eyskens said that U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Iraq and Israel had become equally tough.

Asked why the U.N. resolution condemning Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was much more urgent than that condemning Israel, which has occupied Arab territory for 23 years, he said:

"For 23 years we've had a situation in the Security Council in which one or the other country used its right of veto. We hope that concerning the Palestinian problem that is over."



1991: So far, so good?

By Stewart Russell

Reuter

LONDON — "We're doing as much as we can to resolve (the Gulf crisis) peacefully ahead of the deadline" — U.S. President George Bush to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

"Cities will collapse and the mutilated bodies of victims will be scattered in seas of blood" — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

"It's sort of like ordnance, isn't it?" — U.S. marine bound for the Gulf, observing firecracker celebrations in the Philippines.

New Year's day moved the countdown towards the U.N. deadline for Iraqi forces to quit Kuwait into its final fortnight, with no one optimistic that last-ditch diplomatic efforts would avert a major war.

Even the Pope, speaking on the Roman Catholic Church's world day of peace, sounded less than hopeful.

"With sentiments of distress,

my wish goes out to the Middle East, hoping that 1991 will be a year of peace and not war for everybody," John Paul told pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square.

While the big guns in the Gulf remained silent — for the moment — fighting raged in Somalia, El Salvador and other Third World trouble spots, killing dozens, perhaps hundreds of people.

"We have no idea how many casualties there are," said a spokesman for guerrillas fighting in Mogadishu to oust President Mohamed Siad Barre. "People cannot move easily to count the dead and wounded."

In Manila, celebratory shots proved almost as lethal. Police said 21 people were killed, many by stray bullets, and about 1,500 were wounded during New Year's Eve festivities.

New York, by comparison, was an oasis of good-natured tranquillity. Celebrations drew more than half a million people to Times Square but only three people were arrested, for disorderly conduct.

Things were slightly rougher in London's Trafalgar Square, despite a ban on alcohol. Police said they arrested 145 people and 35 were taken to hospital for treatment.

The Christmas tree in the square was eight feet (three metres) shorter than it should have been. Patrick Harwood-Duffy began the new year in jail, with a four-month sentence to serve, after he attacked the tree with a chainsaw.

Dublin took over from Glasgow as European "capital of culture." Two hundred special events are planned for 1991.

Diva Joan Sutherland sang "there's no place like home" at a farewell performance in London's Covent Garden opera house on New Year's Eve.

The audience, including British Prime Minister John Major and his wife Norma — author of a biography of the 64-year-old singer dubbed La Stupenda by Italian opera buffs — gave her a standing ovation.

"Thank you. I have had a wonderful career, but the old voice is beginning to wind down," she said, blowing a kiss at the final curtain call.

China's Communist Party welcomed 1991 with a hardline message exhorting the nation's 1.1 billion people to stick to socialism, work hard and smash hostile Western influences.

"It is imperative to... oppose bourgeois liberalisation, smash the 'peaceful evolution' schemes of antagonistic international forces, and inspire patriotism and socialist consciousness," the party newspaper People's Daily said in an editorial.

Two thousand Kuwaitis exiled in Egypt welcomed the new year in the shadow of the Sphinx, praying for a quick return to their occupied nation.

A young man cried into a microphone: "our meeting in the coming new year will be on Kuwaiti land."

Schwarzkopf — a teddy bear turned grizzly

By Gary Regenstrief

Reuter

U.S. forces in Operation Desert Shield, has been under the gun to ready his troops for a United Nations deadline authorising forces against Iraq unless it ends its five-month-old occupation of Kuwait by Jan. 15.

The veteran of Vietnam, Grenada and Panama vowed not "to hold anything back" in a war against Iraq.

"The reason I'm going to do that is because I'm a teddy bear and I love my soldiers and sailors and marines and I don't want to see them killed," said Schwarzkopf, 56, a father of three. "If we're going to have to go to war we're going to have to get that banned thing over with."

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Schwarzkopf is no stranger to the Middle East, having explored the streets of Tehran at 12 when his father trained Iran's police force in the 1940s.

He was schooled at the West Point Military Academy in the 1950s and later earned a masters degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering in California.

He has earned a haversack of medals but general's stars on his combat fatigues are all that set him apart from privates.

His heroes are military men, like U.S. civil war General William Tecumseh Sherman, a man Schwarzkopf described as someone "who truly understood the horror of war but when required to execute a war, did so and hated every minute."

Yet he also quotes U.S. World War II General George Patton in his bid, if waging war, to end it quickly.

"Every day sooner that you get to the line will be one day less that we take casualties."

Schwarzkopf, a hunter and fisherman, unwinds to the recorded sounds of waterfowl and hopes to be remembered as a uniform with a human face who sought a peaceful solution.

"I hope all the leaders in this campaign show the American people we are not war mongers," he said.

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Kasparov retains chess crown

LYON, France (Agencies) — Gary Kasparov has retained his world chess title for the next three years, but doubts whether he has seen the last of Anatoly Karpov as his main rival.

Kasparov admitted that his winning margin of 12½ to 11½ in their match which ended Monday fell short of his goal of crushing Karpov into abandoning his quest for the title.

Kasparov, 27, had promised to celebrate his 39-year-old rival's fifth title match since 1955, when Karpov lost the title.

"Before the match I thought this would be the last one. I was sure that I would win and Karpov would never recover. Right now I'm not so sure," Kasparov said.

The ceremonious relationship between the two Soviet grandmasters turned into grudging mutual respect as their long, bitter clash drew to an end.

They discussed the games at length and acknowledged that each had raised their skills solely because of each other.

"To become Kasparov as I am today, I needed Karpov — and I must admit it," the champion said.

Though Karpov might be past his prime, his willpower and vast match experience allowed him to mount as threatening a challenge as ever.

Supreme confidence and aggression gave Kasparov an early lead when the 24-game

match began in New York in

November, and experts wondered whether Karpov's days as a serious contender were numbered.

But Karpov's defensive prowess halted the offensive. He slowly turned the match around, escaping a potentially fatal second defeat and striking back to level the match in the seventh game.

Kasparov's confidence crumbled. His moves were peppered with nervous errors turning previous advantages into harmless draws.

The reversal virtually secured Kasparov's title, and another win in the 20th game put the master beyond doubt.

On Friday, Kasparov heads back to Moscow and jets to the United States at the end of the month to promote chess in America.

"I hope that the next championship can be organised entirely in the United States," he said, believing the commercially rich U.S. market can open "new horizons" for the game.

Kasparov gained the title in 1985, with the players awarded a half-point for a draw in 24 games of competition. Defending champions keep their title with 12 points; challengers need 12.5.

Kasparov gained the title in 1985 with an outright win over Karpov, 13-11. He defended it for the first time in 1986 in a match split between London and Leningrad, 12.5-11.5.

The two Soviets have made a habit of meeting in world championship finals. Between them, they have held the championship for 15 years.

But some experts feel that up-and-coming young Soviets like Boris Gelfand and Vassily Ivanchuk may be able to beat Kasparov.

But Karpov's resistance was so impressive that former world

champion Boris Spassky called him the moral winner of the game.

Karpov rebounded to tie the match with a crushing win in the next game.

The 18th game was decisive. Karpov caught his nervous opponent in a prepared analysis, leaving him looking harried and under pressure. But Kasparov rose to the occasion, turning the ambush into a defeat for the challenger.

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But Karpov's resistance was so impressive that former world

Larsson wins again in Adelaide tennis tournament

ADELAIDE (R) — Sweden's Magnus Larsson, still pumped up by his shock first-round victory over Boris Becker, moved into the quarter-finals of the Australian Hardcourt Men's Tennis Tournament Wednesday.

On a day when players again complained about the suffocating heat, Larsson was lucky enough to play his second-round match in the cool of the evening. Even so, he had to fight all the way to beat burly Yugoslav Slobodan Zivojinovic 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 (10-8).

Zivojinovic held two set points in both sets but failed to capitalise on them, Larsson ranked 56 in the world, will meet German Patrick Kuhnen in the last eight after Kuhnen beat eighth seed Todd Woodbridge of

12-10.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, January 2, 1991		Central Bank official rates
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0
Pound Sterling	1278.9	1286.6
Deutschmark	443.7	446.4
Swiss franc	520.4	523.5
French franc	130.3	131.1
Japanese yen (for 100)	488.1	491.0
Dutch guilder	392.2	395.6
Swedish crown	117.8	118.5
Italian lire (for 100)	58.8	59.2
Belgian franc (for 10)	214.3	215.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9360/70	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1585/95	Canadian dollar
	1.4920/25	Deutschmarks
	1.6815/25	Dutch guilders
	1.2630/40	Swiss francs
	30.74/79	Belgian francs
	5.0750/0800	French francs
	1124/1125	Italian lire
	134.35/45	Japanese yen
	5.6060/6110	Swedish crowns
	5.8550/8600	Norwegian crowns
	5.7550/7600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	391.50/392.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — (The Tokyo Stock Exchange is closed for new year holidays.)

SYDNEY — Renewed fears of Gulf war sent gold stocks spiralling and pushed the market to a higher close. The All Ordinaries Index rose 6.0 points to finish at 1,285.8.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended slightly higher amid scattered bargain-hunting on speculation of a Gulf settlement. The Hang Seng Index rose 6.79 points to close at 3,031.34.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Industrial Index closed one point lower from Friday at 1,153.48.

BOMBAY — Bombay Stock Exchange authorities kept the market closed, fearing heavy selling pressure when trading resumes after a week-long Christmas holiday.

FRANKFURT — Worries about the Gulf crisis and selling by foreign fund managers knocked German share prices 2.3 per cent lower to their lowest closing level in three months. The Dax Index slid into the new year, dropping 32.13 points to 1,366.10.

ZURICH — (closed for holiday)

LONDON — Shares ended lower after a dull day, with no direction provided by a flat Wall Street and dealers reluctant to take positions while Gulf crisis worries overhang markets. Oil stocks made gains on the uncertainty. The FTSE closed at 2,123.3 down 15.2 points.

NEW YORK — U.S. Blue Chips stuck in narrow range at firmer levels. The Dow was up about five to 2,639 at midday.

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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:30 a.m.

White House admits U.S. probably in recession

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's chief economic adviser acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that the U.S. economy probably had entered a recession and predicted it would be relatively short.

"I believe it will be relatively short and that the worst quarterly decline probably was in the quarter just completed Monday," the Bush aide, Michael Boskin, said in an interview on NBC television.

Boskin said: "... it does appear that, after the longest economic expansion in the peacetime history of the United States, that the economy probably has entered recession."

Bush, in an interview taped Dec. 16 for broadcast on television Wednesday night, also acknowledged that parts of the economy are already in recession, but said it would be mild and short.

"I see no evidence of a deep recession. In fact, as we talk, I see evidences of some pockets of our economy that are extraordinarily strong," Bush said in the interview.

Until now, the administration had avoided using the word "recession" partly out of fear that invoking it could hurt consumer and business confidence even further. In addition, officials have delayed acknowledging a recession in the hope that an early settlement of the Gulf crisis could trigger an economic rebound.

"We have been wanting some to make sure that there wasn't an early resolution of that — oil situation in the Gulf — that would cause oil prices to fall and remove that drag from the economy," he said.

They have about 300,000 accounts, worth a total of \$1.7 billion.

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SPRING BREAK

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Bulgaria halts petrol sales for two weeks

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria, where long queues, abandoned cars and dry petrol stations have become a daily sight, stopped petrol sales for two weeks from Wednesday, the official BTA news agency reported.

The state-run oil company said it would not provide fuel for ambulances, public buses and delivery vans.

Prime Minister Dimitar Popov said on television Tuesday night that the government had not been warned of the ban and would discuss petrol shortages Monday.

Bulgaria, Moscow's staunchest ally under former communist leader Todor Zhivkov, has suffered an economic slump amid political uncertainty since Zhivkov was ousted in November 1989.

Its crippled economy was dealt a blow when the Soviet Union cut exports of cheap crude oil to its allies in eastern Europe preferring to sell it on the world market for hard currency.

Fuel supplies fell again after Bulgaria cut Iraqi oil imports in August, in line with United Nations trade sanctions.

Last month the government banned petrol sales for seven days to save fuel for emergency services.

1991 budget totals \$4.7b

Oman reports 9.4% growth in 1990 GDP

NICOSIA (R) — Oman reported Wednesday a 9.4 per cent growth in its gross domestic product (GDP) from the previous year's 1.820 billion riyals (\$4.732).

The non-oil sectors included refineries, electricity and water, construction, commerce and government services, said the Omani agency, received in Cyprus.

The report, carried by the Omani News Agency, estimated Oman's 1990 GDP in current prices of the oil and other sectors at 3.591 billion riyals (\$9.336 billion). In 1989, the country's GDP was 3.282 billion riyals (\$8.533 billion).

The report said oil contributed 44 per cent of the total GDP. Oil revenues were estimated at 1.587 billion riyals (\$4.126 billion) with most of it coming from crude oil and only 46.3 million riyals (\$120.3 million) from the natural gas.

In 1989, oil's contribution to the GDP was 1.462 billion riyals (\$3.801 billion), 8.5 per cent less than 1990.

The council's statistics put the contribution of non-oil sectors to the 1990 GDP at 2.004 billion riyals (\$5.210 billion), 10 per cent higher than the previous year's 1.820 billion riyals (\$4.732).

The new budget gave a deficit of 237 million riyals (\$615 million) it was not known how it would be financed.

The deputy prime minister for finance and economic affairs said the budget concentrated on boosting and encouraging the industrial sector, which will get 24 million riyals (\$62.3 million) from the total budget.

The estimated state budget ... represents the gross spending in its rural provinces.

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Holder of ticket No. 71159 Wins JD 5,000	30908 30917 30007 31907 40907
Holder of ticket No. 70812 Wins JD 4,000	30906 30997 30807 39907 20907
Holder of ticket No. 93494 Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 2,500 each wins JD 250
Holder of ticket No. 54160 Wins JD 2,000	34412 34421 34511 35411 44411
Holder of ticket No. 51359 Wins JD 1,000	34410 34401 34311 33411 24411
Ticket numbers 96886 82830 07482 93550 38828	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,500 each wins JD 150
Ticket numbers 43904 21266 86114 74024 93758	71150 71169 71259 72159 81159

71158 71149 71059 70159 61159

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70813 70822 70912 71812 80812

70811 70802 70712 79812 60812

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60

93495 93404 93594 94494 03494

93493 93484 93394 92494 83494

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each wins JD 25

54161 54170 54260 55160 64160

54169 54150 54060 53160 44160

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15

51350 51369 51459 52359 61359

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Sri Lankan rebels, breaking ceasefire, attack army camps

KANDY, Sri Lanka (R) — Tamil rebels attacked two army camps in northern Sri Lanka Wednesday, breaking their unilateral ceasefire, military sources said.

The attacks occurred as President Ranasinghe Premadasa, marking two years in office with celebrations in the former hill capital Kandy, vowed to restore peace.

"I pledge to restore peace... I promise to rebuild a land destroyed by violence... Terrorism is being defeated," Premadasa told about 5,000 people gathered under tight security in Kandy Wednesday.

Military sources said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired mortars and small

arms Wednesday at a military detachment at Kaduwala in the northern Jaffna peninsula, a rebel stronghold. Earlier reports said the attack took place at Kankesanturai, also in the north.

The guerrillas also attacked an army camp at Elephant Pass, a small strip of land linking the peninsula with the mainland.

Troops returned fire on both occasions. There were no casualties or damage, the sources said.

A military officer down the clashes, describing them as small incidents.

The Tigers, who have fought security in the north and east for seven years, declared an indefinite ceasefire from midnight

Monday. In Kandy, Premadasa renewed his call for a united Sri Lanka.

"We must prevent the division of our motherland. We must restore lasting unity among all sections of our country... our vision is unity, not separation," he said.

On Tuesday the president said the government was being cautious in responding to the unilateral ceasefire declaration by the Tigers because the rebels had in the past betrayed the trust placed in them.

Military sources said that while the government had not officially announced its response to the Tiger ceasefire, security forces had suspended military offensives.

The Tigers are fighting for an independent homeland for Tamils in the north and east of the country.

stallations in the north and east. More than 2,000 rebels and nearly 900 securitymen have died in fighting since then. About 680 civilians have been killed in crossfire.

Premadasa said the government would announce its response to the ceasefire declaration after consulting political parties, Buddhist chief monks and other religious leaders.

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18 killed in Chinese cinema melee

PEKING (AP) — A melee that broke out New Year's Eve after a movie theatre sold too many tickets has left 18 people trampled to death and 34 injured in a southern Chinese village, a local newspaper reported.

The newspaper, which arrived in Peking Wednesday, said chaos erupted as people tried to cram through the only door of an open-air theatre in the village of

Wanfeng near the city of Shenzhen in Guangdong province.

The Yangcheng Evening News of Canton reported Tuesday that the privately operated theatre holds 600 people. But the newspaper said the theatre had sold nearly 1,000 tickets for a showing of the Taiwanese movie, *Mama, Love Me Again*.

Moviegoers tried to force their way into the theatre for a late-night performance while the audience from 8:30 p.m. showing was leaving, the newspaper said. The crowd began to panic and 52 people were trampled, it said.

Ten of the injured were hospitalized in serious condition, the newspaper said.

The Hong Kong China News Service said most of the victims were from provinces outside of Guangdong.

COLUMN 10

Santa Injured In Parachute Drop

SAN REMO (AP) — Strong winds forced the suspension of a traditional Santa Claus parachute drop after one jumper was injured, organisers reported. The yearly event features men in Santa Claus outfits jumping from a helicopter carrying toys for needy children.

Tower of Pisa leans more

PISA (R) — Italy's leaning Tower of Pisa tilted a further 1.19 millimetres in 1990 — despite being closed to visitors for most of the year pending repairs to stop it falling over, officials said. The 800-year-old bell tower, one of Italy's most famous landmarks, was shut to tourists last Jan. 7 when experts judged it dangerous for visitors to continue climbing its 294 winding steps. The official in charge of the tower's upkeep, Renato Favilli, said the closure had resulted in a 25 per cent drop in visitors to Pisa's *Dei Miracoli* Square. The Italian senate, a month ago approved 100 billion lire (\$90 million) for repairs to shore up the foundations of the tower, which leans about five metres off the perpendicular, and to restore other monuments in the square.

Esperanto fails to bring people together

CHICAGO (AP) — Esperanto, an artificial language intended to bring people closer together and promote world harmony, is having problems getting any attention. Four speakers were on hand for a seminar on esperanto at the Modern Language Association's annual convention, but no one showed up to listen to them. Pierre Ullman of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee delivered a spirited defense of the language. "Esperanto does have an ideology. It is the way for harmony on a linguistic basis," said Ullman, 61, professor of Spanish. The Esperanto League for North America says about 2 million people speak the language worldwide, including about 2,000 in the United States. "There are probably only six or seven Esperantists in all of Wisconsin," Ullman said Sunday. "Frankly, I'm disillusioned." Esperanto is based on European languages, with vocabulary derived from Latin and Germanic roots. Examples: "Estu karlo tua amico?" means, "Charles your friend?" The language was invented in 1887 by Dr. Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, a physician who lived in an area of Poland near the Russian and Lithuanian borders. He saw frequent violence between speakers of German, Polish, Russian and Lithuanian so he thought an international language might be a key to world peace.

President Carlos Andres Perez said if the OAS condemnation did not force the military to reinstate Shankar, Venezuela would call for an extraordinary meeting of the hemispheric organisation's consultative body, made up of foreign ministers.

On Monday, Venezuela

announced it would break diplomatic ties with its neighbour

Suriname.

The Netherlands suspended

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Quake shakes Soviet Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — An earthquake shook the southern Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan on New Year's Day, TASS news agency said Wednesday. There were no reported casualties. Seismologists said the quake registered 5.5 to 6.0 on the Richter Scale, a magnitude powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area. The epicentre was in the Imishli region, about 130 kilometres south west of the Republican capital of Baku. Tehran radio said a tremor, measuring 4.8 on the Richter, hit the neighbouring Iranian province of east Azerbaijan Tuesday. A milder quake hit an area near Tehran Wednesday.

Rebels kill 10 in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Leftist rebels killed at least 10 policemen and an army officer, blew up a gas pipeline and burned a hotel in a series of New Year's Day attacks. The rebels of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator, made up of the country's two biggest and most active insurgent groups, launched their most violent attack in Miraflores, a western town near the Pacific coast, according to a police statement. After blowing up a section of a gasoline pipeline there, which ignited gasoline, the guerrillas ambushed a police patrol which came to the scene, killing four policemen, the statement said. It added that before escaping into the countryside, the rebels set fire to a local tourist hotel. The six other policemen and the army officer died in scattered fighting elsewhere between security forces and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator, police and army reports said. The rebels are retaliating for an army offensive begun on Dec. 9 against the Central Command Post of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Colombia's oldest and biggest rebel outfit. FARC is a member of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator, along with the pro-Cuban National Liberation Army.

Venezuela seeks collective sanctions against Suriname

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela has activated diplomatic consultations aimed at possibly imposing hemispheric sanctions against the new military-backed regime in Suriname, official sources said. Economic assistance to its former colony shortly after the Christmas Eve coup. On Friday the permanent council of the Organisation of the American States (OAS) condemned the military action.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean Community of Nations (Caricom) was considering expelling Suriname from the organisation, where it has an observer status, the Venezuelan Press Agency, Vprenses, reported.

The Home Ministry said 4,479 people died in Punjab but gave no breakdown of who they were. A daily tally by the Associated Press from news agency reports put the toll of non-militant fatalities at 3,317.

On the first day of 1991, 16 people were killed, including five militants, UNI reported.

The order to reinforce security

in the Punjab came despite an initial move by Prime Minister

Chandrashekhar to begin a dialogue with Sikh militants

seeking independence for the rich agricultural state that borders Pakistan.

The Netherlands suspended

1990 — a big travel year for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President George Bush lived up to his reputation in 1990 as the man who can't sit still, spending more than one-third of the year on the road as he hopped from Bermuda to Saudi Arabia and Hawaii to Maine.

Bush christened a new Air Force One and logged 144,749 foreign and domestic flying miles (232,901 kilometres) for the year in his new 747 Jumbo Jet and its predecessors, according to statistics compiled by the White House.

His two-year travel total handily surpasses that of President Ronald Reagan. Bush traveled to 113 cities in 44 states, 91 of the cities more than once.

During Reagan's first two years in office, he made it to 32 states, according to statistics provided by his library staff in California.

At times taxing the stamina of his staff and the press corps to their limits, the peripatetic Bush visited 28 foreign countries, some of them more than once, in

His total days away from the capital numbered 131 for the year.

The most travelled month was in July, when Bush was on the road 19 days for a head-spinning schedule that included a Fourth of July holiday in Maine, the economic summit of industrialised nations in Houston and the NATO summit in London.

His most frequently visited city was his beloved vacation

home in Kennebunkport, Maine, with 11 trips there over the two years.

Bush made two trips each to Belgium, Canada, England, France and Germany.

Bush was sometimes criticised by Democrats for flitting about the nation and the world while pressing business awaited in Washington. But the president frequently dealt with domestic and foreign policy affairs from the road — reacting from Venezuela to Iraq's release of U.S. hostages, telephoning world leaders to consult on the Gulf crisis from Kennebunkport, Maine, arranging meetings on the contentious budget fight from Atlanta, and signing a flurry of orders, proclamations and legislation from virtually every stop on his itinerary.

Indications are that the Bush traveling entourage can look forward to another year of globetrotting, with a Moscow summit on tap for February, and talk of trips to Australia, Japan and Korea.

Man trains dogs, and handlers

BUCKHANNON, West Virginia (AP) — Wayne Davis is hired by people from Saudi Arabia, Australia, Singapore and other countries who want to learn how to train dogs to find

drugs and explosives, search for people and bite.

Casino tycoon balls out troubled jockey club

HONG KONG (R) — Casino tycoon Stanley Ho has agreed to buy out a majority stake in the financially troubled Macau Jockey Club (MJC), press reports in the Portuguese-run territory and nearby Hong Kong said. Hong Kong newspapers said a consortium led by Ho will take over management of the club after raising one billion Hong Kong dollars (\$128.21 million) to purchase 51 per cent of its shares and to pay 35 million (\$4.5 million) in outstanding construction bills. The other 49 per cent will remain with Taiwanese investors who set up the club in September 1989.

Consortium officials were not immediately available for comment. A dispute over repayment of debts forced the MJC to suspend races indefinitely on Dec. 14 after creditors won a court order to close down the club. "This is a crude trick by Tira-nas, aimed at evacuating northern Epirus (southern Albania) of its indigenous element which has been there for thousands of years," spokesman Byron Polydoras said.

He said that altering demographic conditions in the area would affect the Albanian economy as well as the results of elections scheduled by President Ramiz Alia for Feb. 10.

The spokesman said Albanian authorities had spread rumours that the border would close and had intensified police harassment of ethnic Greeks to encourage them to flee. The furies and hydrofossils that link it with Hong Kong, 60 kilometres across the Pearl River estuary.

IRA launches 1st attack of new year

BELFAST (Agencies) — Irish guerrillas launched their first attack of 1991 Tuesday, firing on British soldiers manning a border checkpoint in Northern Ireland, police said.

The soldiers returned fire. The British army said its forces suffered no casualties.

Police said the attack, from the southern side of the border at Aughnacloy in County Tyrone, was the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Soldiers on Sunday shot and killed a Catholic man and seriously injured his brother after their car ran through a border checkpoint, knocking down two soldiers.

Dr. Cahal Daly, Archbishop of Armagh and Catholic primate of All-Ireland, said the circumstances of Sunday's incident were disturbing and he demanded an independent inquiry.

The British army has said police will investigate the death.

Meanwhile, Daithi O Conaill, reputed chief of staff of the Irish Republican Army during the 1970s, died at his Dublin home Tuesday, the Sinn Fein party said. He was 53.

His family said they found him dead after he had gone to bed complaining of feeling unwell. Sinn Fein, the outlawed IRA's legal political wing, announced the death.

A teacher, O Conaill reputedly joined the IRA at the age of

18 and was prominent in the establishment of the movement's hard-line provisional wing in 1972.

By April 1973, when he slipped through a security net to give a speech at a Milltown Cemetery in Belfast, he was believed to have become chief of staff.

He was said to have perfected the use of the car bomb, one of the main IRA weapons in the early stages of their campaign to drive the British out of the predominantly Protestant province and unite it with the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic.

O Conaill was twice jailed for IRA membership in Dublin, but also played an active political role, being involved in talks with Protestant churchmen that led to a short-lived ceasefire in 1975.

Soon after the July 1982 IRA bombings that killed 11 soldiers in London, he spoke at a rally in Monaghan and threatened more bombs in Britain.

On Conaill quit the Provisional Sinn Fein Movement four years ago when the organisation dropped its traditional opposition to participating in elections.

In the view of the guard of Sinn Fein, to take a seat in the Irish parliament, or Dail, would imply recognition of the partition of the north and south.

O Conaill and other dissidents broke away at that time to form the tiny republican Sinn Fein group.

36 journalists killed in 1990

Mexico, Peru and Sri Lanka, it said.

Latin America remained the most dangerous continent, with a total of 13 killings in seven countries.

"If this total is less than that recorded in 1989, when 71 journalists were killed, it is nevertheless very high and unfortunately confirms the fact that murder is seen as a radical means of shutting up the press."

The group said in the 20 years to 1989, 715 journalists were killed, more than half in Latin America.

It also alleged 198 journalists were imprisoned during 1990 for their work or opinions "notably

in Iran (41), China (32), Turkey (28), Israel (25), Sudan (13), Syria (11).

Credible information was lacking in the cases of China, North Korea, Vietnam, Syria, Malawi, Sudan and Burma (Myanmar), it said.

Reporters Sans Frontieres said three states were "directly implicated in the assassination of journalists."

It noted both sides in the recent Liberian civil war and the former Chadian regime of Hisense Habre, where it alleged two journalists died in prison.

Killings had been "if not ordered then at least covered up" by El Salvador and Sri Lanka, it alleged.

Only 1 candidate gets enough votes to take Haiti senate seat

PONT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Only one candidate got enough votes to take a senate seat without a runoff, according to first-round election results released by the Electoral Council.

Only one senate candidate got the majority needed to fill his seat in the Dec. 16 general elections, while in the Chamber of Deputies only 25 out of 83 seats were decided.

A runoff election for the two-chamber National Assembly is scheduled for Jan. 20.

On Dec. 16, Haitians also elected Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a leftist priest, as president.

Aristide was declared the winner on Dec. 23 with over 65 per cent of the vote.

A previous attempt at free elections collapsed when in 1987 thugs with the support of the army shot and hacked to death at least 34 voters in the polls.

According to the 1987 constitution, the president is head of state, but a prime minister actually runs the government. The president does not have the power to dissolve the two-chamber 110-seat National Assembly.

He must choose the prime